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Jets secure Caravella



The Newcastle Jets have signed attacking midfielder Zenon Caravella for the remainder of this season and the 2013/14 season.

Caravella, who was released from Adelaide United late Tuesday, won Adelaide's Player of the Year last season.

"We are excited to sign Zenon and believe he will be a great addition to the squad," CEO Robbie Middleby said.

"It is fantastic to have someone of his experience, reputation and versatility join the Jets."

Caravella said he is looking forward to linking up with the Jets as they continue their push to secure a spot in the A-League's top six.

"I am really excited to be joining the Jets and grateful that

Gary (van Egmond) has given me this opportunity during the season," he said.

"I have always found that the Jets have a never-give-up attitude and I'm looking forward to being a part of this club and playing in front of the Newcastle fans."

Coach Gary van Egmond believes Caravella will be an important addition to the squad.

"We are really happy to acquire Zenon, not only for this season but for next season as well," van Egmond said.

"Zenon will be a great acquisition because of his technical abilities and the way he works in a game but just as importantly, for his great leadership."

In 2011, Caravella was was one of 20 players handpicked by National Team coach Holger Osieck to attend the Australian National Football Team Camp.

Makarounas and Galloway join Victory



Melbourne Victory's newest recruits from left to right Jesse Makarounas, Scott Galloway and Francesco Stella. PHOTO: JIM WEBSTER / BREATHING FOOTBALL



Melbourne Victory's investment in young Australian talent received yet another boost, with the club confirming it has signed 18-year-old

attacker Jesse Makarounas and 17-year-old defender Scott Galloway – both on deals that will see them remain at the club until the conclusion of the 2014/15 season.

Makarounas joins Victory from Perth Glory, where he made his Hyundai A-League debut, coincidentally, against Melbourne Victory in 2012, while he has made a further 3 appearances so far this season.

The 18-year-old has also represented Australia in several youth squads, scoring 13 goals in his 22 underage appearances, including one of the strikes of the tournament at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Mexico. He was also awarded the golden boot at the 2010 AFC U-16 Championship in Tashkent.

Galloway arrives at Victory from the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), where he has had an outstanding season for their National Youth League (NYL) team, a team which he also captained.

Melbourne Victory Coach Ange Postecoglou said both showed great potential which he looked forward to seeing develop over the coming seasons.

"Both Jesse and Scott are players we can see making an impact on this league and there is no doubt they have plenty of talent, which really excites us," Postecoglou said.

"Jesse has already had a small taste of the A-League and we think he will fit into our system really well. Goal-scorers are a priceless commodity in our game and his record with the national teams he's played in is fantastic, so we're excited to have him onboard."

"Scott was captaining the AIS side in the NYL and has obviously been in a good environment where he's been

allowed to develop into a fine young player who I believe will only get better," he added.

Both have signed two-and-a-half year contracts and will be available to represent the club throughout the remainder of Hyundai A-League and National Youth League seasons.

Before flying east with his new teammates, Makarounas said, "I want to thank Perth Glory for the opportunities they gave me and it was certainly a tough decision to leave my home town, but Melbourne Victory has shown a willingness to blood youngsters on a number of occasions this season and it was an offer I couldn't refuse."

Galloway was equally excited to be heading to AAMI Park, "It's every young footballers dream to sign their first professional contract, so I'm over the moon to be joining a club like Melbourne Victory. Hopefully I can repay their faith in me over the next few seasons." Galloway said.

SHORT PASSES

Perth Glory is delighted to announce young West Australian defender Jack Clisby has signed a professional contract with the club until the end of the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League season.

Clisby, 20 years old, who grew up supporting Perth Glory, said his elevation from the club's Youth team is a dream come true.

NICK Fitzgerald will link with the Central Coast Mariners on a two-and-a-half year contract through to the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.

Fitzgerald, 20, today agreed to a mutual termination of his contract with Brisbane Roar.

Last week, Central Coast Mariners announced that the exciting attacking utility had signed with the Club for the next two Hyundai A-League campaigns, however his deal will now take effect immediately.

YOUNGSTERS Hayden Morton and Michael Neill have been rewarded for their stellar form in the 2012/13 National Youth League (NYL) competition with two-year Hyundai A-League contracts with Central Coast Mariners.

Versatile defender Morton and left-back Neill, both 18, have starred for John McLafferty's youth team this campaign, and have impressed the Mariners coaching staff in their efforts at first team training.

Indeed, Morton has already shown his capacity to handle life at the A-League level. The Qantas Young Socceroo made his debut appearance in Australia's top flight in round 13 this season against Sydney FC, handling himself impressively in a high-pressure encounter at Allianz Stadium.

Having been selected in Paul Okon's last three Qantas Young Socceroos squads, Morton is in the reckoning to feature at the FIFA Under 20 World Cup in Turkey later this year.

Neill previously played with Sutherland Sharks in the New South Wales Premier League and has been rewarded for his cultured, composed play down the left flank this campaign, as well as his progress since joining the Club.

While Morton and Neill's senior contracts include the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Hyundai A-League seasons, both players have also signed extensions to their current NYL deals to ensure they are part of Central Coast's 2013 AFC Champions League squad.

19-year-old goalkeeper David Bradasevic has also extended his youth contract for the Mariners' third foray into Asia's premier club competition.



Zenon Caravella in action for the Reds. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



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Rogic completes Celtic switch



Young Australian midfielder Tom Rogic has sealed his four-and-a-half year contract with Celtic after being granted a work permit.

Central Coast Mariners are expected to receive around \$AU600,000 as a transfer fee for Rogic, who leaves the Gosford-based A-League club after two seasons and 28 games.

Celtic announced on their website on Monday that Rogic has been granted the required work permit by the British government and will join the club officially after he returns to Australia to complete 'some final paperwork'.

"Celtic are delighted to announce that a work permit for Australian Tom Rogic has been approved," the club said in a written statement.

"The 20-year-old midfielder previously played for Central Coast Mariners in Australia, and has signed for Celtic on a four-and-a-half year deal.

"The highly-rated youngster will now return to Australia to complete some final paperwork before

returning to Glasgow and getting his Hoops career underway."

Rogic quickly became one of the stars of the A-League last season, having joined Central Coast after being named one of the winners of Nike's global talent search, 'The Chance'.

The 20-year-old playmaker almost signed for Reading before joining the Mariners but was denied a work permit.

Reading's loss was Central Coast's gain as Rogic burst onto the scene with his silky skills and a handful of stunning goals.

In November, Socceroos head coach Holger Osieck gave the youngster his full international debut in a friendly against South Korea.

While Reading, Queens Park Rangers and Fulham were all reportedly interested in signing Rogic, it was Celtic who made the decisive move, inviting the midfielder to their mid-season training camp in Spain earlier this month, with the Mariners' accepting Celtic's bid last week.

Babalj set for return to Heart



Eli Babalj will return to Melbourne Heart FC from Red Star Belgrade for the remainder of this season and the 2013-14 Hyundai A-League campaign. Babalj will link up with teammates this Saturday for Heart's round 18 Hyundai A-League clash with Western Sydney Wanderers at Parramatta Stadium, should his international clearance be processed. Babalj, now 20, was signed as a 17-year-old for the Club's inaugural season and caught the eye of Red Star's management following a breakthrough 2011-12

season in which he finished top scorer for the Heart with nine goals. Babalj signed with the former European Champions and Serbian SuperLiga outfit in June last year. However, with a portion of Babalj's original transfer fee still unpaid, Heart exercised its right to recall the player. "The Club thanks Red Star for its cooperation in this matter," Heart CEO Scott Munn said. "While it is unfortunate that Eli's foray into professional football in Serbia did not work out, we look forward to see-

ing him back in the Red and White of Melbourne Heart again." Head Coach John Aloisi said he was pleased to have former teammate Babalj as added firepower to his in-form Heart squad. "It's great to have Eli back; his contribution last season was outstanding and his hunger to do well and succeed is second to none," Aloisi said. "He might be available for this Saturday's match against the Wanderers, but if not, he will still give us a huge boost for the rest of the season."

Heart youth to play in FFV

Melbourne Heart FC is excited to announce it will compete in Football Federation Victoria senior competition in 2013. Heart has agreed with FFV to field a team in the wholly amateur State League Division Two (North West) and will use players drawn ostensibly from its National Youth League training squad.

The team will, like all teams in the FFV competitions, be subject to promotion and relegation and is set to use Epping Soccer Stadium as its home base in the North West.

"Our admission into FFV competition reinforces the Club's pledge to invest in creating genuine opportunities for talented young players to break into the Hyundai

A-League," Heart CEO Scott Munn said. "Continuity is of paramount importance in player development. This initiative affords the club's coaches the opportunity to train and develop players for 12-months of the year based on the same principles. "The club has opted to enter at a lower level to ensure it earns the right to compete at the top level in the state. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meaningfully engage with the heart and soul of grassroots football in Victoria where it means the most - on the playing field." Melbourne Heart Head Coach John Aloisi sees this as a natural step for all Hyundai A-League clubs. "Many clubs in Europe have second teams

or youth-orientated teams playing in the lower leagues of their domestic competition," Aloisi said. "It's a great way to keep as many players as possible playing within the club's structure, particularly those players who might mature later than others. "As coaches, it is difficult to have players for a few months and then see them move on to other clubs where they may be coached in a different way or not played at all. "By competing all year round, we have the opportunity to keep promising young players within our system to give them the match time they need and to develop them in accordance with the tactical, technical and physical needs of the A-League team."

Melbourne Victory's

Australia Day clash

SOLD OUT



Melbourne Victory can confirm that this Saturday's Australia Day match at AAMI Park is now officially a 'sellout'. All available public tickets for the U-NITE

match between Melbourne Victory and Alessandro Del Piero's Sydney FC have been sold, with no tickets available for purchase on the day at AAMI Park.

Aside from quality football, the fourth annual U-NITE match will feature a range of Australia Day themed events, as the football community embraces multiculturalism and celebrates diversity.

Those who have secured tickets will also be able to watch a curtain raiser match between Victoria's best young multicultural talent, as the Unite FC team take on the Victorian Champions League (VCL) All-Stars, with kick-off taking place just after gates open at AAMI Park at 4pm.

This match will also be a special day for 55 new Australians, who will take part in a Citizenship Ceremony on AAMI Park. The new citizens will be invited on to the pitch just before kick-off to make their pledge in front of a sold-out AAMI Park. Talented Australian singer Silvie Paladino will also sing the national anthem ahead of one of the biggest matches of the season.

Grand Opening For Moreland Zebras

Proud Victorian State League club Moreland Zebras will stage the grand opening of its new club rooms at De Chene Reserve, Urquart Street, Coburg on Sunday 3rd February. Finger food provided and drinks at bar prices. All welcome to attend. For more information please contact Mirella - 0418 711 119 or mirellaruffino@gmail.com

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	17	10	5	2	26	11	15	35
2 Adelaide United	17	10	2	5	27	21	6	32
3 Melbourne Victory	17	9	3	5	28	27	1	30
4 West Sydney Wanderers	17	9	2	6	21	14	7	29
5 Melbourne Heart	17	6	3	8	23	24	-1	21
6 Newcastle Jets	17	6	3	8	20	28	-8	21
7 Sydney FC	17	6	2	9	27	34	-7	20
8 Perth Glory	17	5	4	8	18	18	0	19
9 Brisbane Roar	17	5	2	10	20	22	-2	17
10 Wellington Phoenix	17	4	4	9	20	31	-11	16

THIS WEEK	ROUND 18	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Jan 25	Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Jan 26	Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Jan 26	W Sydney Wanderers v Melbourne Heart	Parramatta Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat Jan 26	Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
	Sun Jan 27	Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm

NEXT WEEK	ROUND 19	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Feb 01	Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
	Sat Feb 02	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	Eden Park	5:00pm	3:00pm
	Sat Feb 02	Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC	Hunter Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Feb 02	Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun Feb 03	Adelaide Utd Western v W Sydney Wanderers	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

ROUND 17 RESULTS

Melbourne Heart 2
(Tadic 4, Garcia 49)

Adelaide United 0

Crowd: 7,181 @ AAMI Park

Perth Glory 0

Melbourne Victory 1 (Jamieson 24og)

Crowd: 7603 @ nib Stadium

Sydney FC 7 (Griffiths 11, Del Piero 21, 23, 39, 70, Culina 26, Yau 84)

Wellington 1 (Sigmund 79)

Crowd: 12, 691 @ Allianz Stadium

Brisbane Roar 1

(Mitch Nicholls 21)

Western Sydney Wanderers 2

(Mark Bridge 64, Youssouf Hersi 70)

Central Coast Mariners 0

Newcastle Jets 0

Crowd: 11,249 @ Bluetongue Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

13 - Daniel McBREEN

(Mariners)

10 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)

Marco ROJAS (Victory)

9 - Alessandro DEL PIERO

(SFC)

8 - Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)

Besart BERISHA (Roar)

7 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)

6 - Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)

Jeronimo Naumann (AUGC)

Josip TADIC (Heart)



ADP jumps into 3rd place on the GW Hots Shots chart with an epic 4-goal performance that will forever go down in the HAL showreel hall of fame.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 17

Compiled by
Steven Talevski



GK: Vedran Janjetovic – Despite the score line suggesting it was a one way street, the game could have turned out much different if it wasn't for a terrific start to the game by Janjetovic who made several saves denying Wellington of taking the lead early in the game.

RWB: Jerome Polenz – The German full back had one of his best games for the Wanderers and played a crucial part in Mark Bridge's goal.

RCB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley – A typical performance from the central defender earns him a spot once again in Goal! Weekly's team of the week.

CB: Simon Colosimo – The experienced veteran was at his best against Adelaide United helping his side keep an impressive clean sheet to help take them into fifth position on the table.

LCB: Trent Sainsbury – The youngster once again had another solid game in defence for the Mariners which was highlighted by a goal saving challenge on Ryan Griffiths late in the F3 derby.

LWB: Sam Gallaway – Handed a start in the F3 derby, Gallaway had a solid game in defence for the Jets as the youngster helped them to their third consecutive clean sheet.

RCM: Richard Garcia – Another great game by the returning Soccerroo which was highlighted by a second half goal. His hard work on and off the ball during the game was one of the main reasons Melbourne Heart were able to knock off the second placed Adelaide United.

CM: Matt Thompson – Much like Garcia, Thompson work effort was terrific against Adelaide as he helped Richard Garcia score Melbourne's second in their two nil victory.

LCM: Jason Culina – Culina continues to excel since his return from long term injury and was a part of a terrific Sydney FC victory as he found himself on the score sheet with a well taken goal.

CAM: Alessandro Del Piero – Del Piero found the back of the net four times in one of the greatest A-League performances.

ST: Joel Griffiths – One of four Sydney FC players in Goal! Weekly's team of the week, Griffiths made his Sydney FC debut by scoring the game's opening goal in a day Wellington would rather forget.

Coach: Frank Farina – How could we go past the former Soccerroos manager after he led his Sydney FC side to a 7-1 smashing of the Phoenix. There is no question that Sydney FC has the talent, but can Farina continue getting the best out of his players and reach the finals?

Star Man

Alessandro Del Piero
Sydney FC



There was no question of who this week's GW Star Man was after the completion of the round. The Italian and Juventus great had his best game in sky blue by scoring four well taken goals in front of a home crowd. Sydney FC fans will be licking their lips with Del Piero's form as the Marquee Man prepares for his first game in Melbourne at a potentially sold out AAMI Park against rivals Melbourne Victory.

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Melbourne Heart

MELBOURNE HEART



2

Adelaide United



0

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 2
(Tadic 5', Garcia 50')
Adelaide United FC 0
Referee: Lucien Laverdure
Crowd: 7,181
Venue: AAMI Park

Melbourne Heart: 20.Andrew Redmayne (gk), 4.Simon Colosimo, 5.Fred (c) (22.Nick Kalmar 55'), 6.Patrick Gerhardt, 8.Matthew Thompson, 10.Josip Tadic (9.Dylan Macallister 90+1'), 11.Richard Garcia, 13.Jonatan Germano, 15.David Williams (19.Ben Garuccio 90'), 16.Aziz Behich, 25.Jeremy Walker
Substitutes not used: 1.Clint Bolton (gk)
Yellow Cards: Behich 82'
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 5.Iain Fyfe, 6.Cassio (4.Jon McKain 71'), 10.Dario Vidosic (7.Zenon Caravella 64'), 12.Antony Golec, 14.Cameron Watson, 16.Daniel Bowles, 17.Iain Ramsay, 18.Fabian Barbiero, 21.Jeronimo Neumann (19.Jake Barker-Daish 77'), 23.Evan Kostopoulos
Substitutes not used: 30.John Hall (gk)
Yellow Cards: Fyfe 21', Golec 52'
Red Cards: Nil

Heart Finds Its Ticker Again Over Reds

By Roy Hay

Goals five minutes into each half gave Melbourne Heart its victory over a disappointing Adelaide United at AAMI Park on Friday night.

Heart went into its crucial match with close to a full strength line-up. Young Jeremy Walker held his place at full back, but Golgol Mebratu, whose body is struggling to cope with the physicality of the A-League, dropped out of the squad with Nick Kalmar coming in. Adelaide missed Bruce Djite, Nigel Boogaard, Marcelo Carrusca and Fabio Ferriera.

Their loss was greater and more obvious, though Adelaide coach John Kosmina thought that defensive mistakes rather than a difference in quality between the sides accounted for the result.

Heart needed an early goal to settle its nerves and, after David Williams had gone close with one thunderous shot, the breakthrough came in the 5th minute.

Heart won a corner on the right which was delivered short to skipper Fred. His high cross into the area was met by a flying leap by Josip Tadic and a powerful downward header past Eugene Galekovic.

Heart could have added to its lead several times in the first half and Fred was one of the major culprits with three efforts which flew well wide of the goal from excellent positions.

Dario Vidosic was the main threat to the home team with one shot which just went over



Melbourne Heart is out of the blocks early thanks to Josip Tadic's close range header. Photo: ANITA MILAS

the cross bar as Andrew Redmayne tried to get his fingertips to the ball. So it remained one-nil to Heart at the break.

Five minutes into the second half the lead was doubled when Matt Thompson robbed Evan Kostopoulos and set off on a diagonal run across the box. As he was tackled he laid the ball into the path of Richard Garcia who finished sweetly.

From then on Heart controlled the game, apart from some of the old failing of taking free

kicks and throws which finished up with the ball going all the way back to the keeper.

Adelaide did have more possession but nearly all of it was in front of the Heart backline, in which young Walker was outstanding. In the centre Patrick Gerhardt and Simon Colosimo were cool under pressure, while Aziz Behich was always ready to rebound quickly when the opportunity occurred.

There was a bizarre incident in the first half when Adelaide

player, Iain Ramsay, lost his boot and there was a hiatus of two minutes while he put it back on and tied his laces. It was a strange lapse by referee Lucien Laverdure who was otherwise excellent in his third A-League game.

John Aloisi was pleased that Heart kept its shape, particularly late in the second half, when they have tended to stop doing what they planned to do in previous matches. The coach said the players had absorbed the

game plan and were coaching each other on the field.

Even young Walker was telling Richard Garcia what he needed to do, which delighted the coach. 'It showed we can play for ninety minutes and will help the players' confidence to know that they can knock off the second top team on the ladder.

The test will come next week away to the West Sydney Wanderers the form team of the moment in the A-League.

M	Match Stats	A
2	Saves	1
3	Attempts on target	2
11	Attempts off target	13
46%	Possession	54%
4	Corners	2
2	Offsides	1
13	Fouls committed	12



Melbourne Heart's Richard Garcia doubles the lead just after half-time, and ultimately seals the points against the the South Australians. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Josip Tadic celebrates after nodding home just minutes after the highly anticipated match got underway. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME



Sydney FC

7



Wellington Phoenix



1

Match Details

Sydney FC 7 (Joel Griffiths 11', Alessandro Del Piero 20' 23' 39' 70', Jason Culina 26', Yairo Yau 84')

Wellington Phoenix 1 (Ben Sigmund 79').

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones
Allianz Stadium
Crowd: 12, 691.

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk), 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Fabio, 6. Jason Culina, 7. Brett Emerton, 10. Alessandro Del Piero (12. Blake Powell 83'), 13. Tiago Calvano (18. Trent McClenahan 57'), 15. Terry Mcflynn, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyann Grant, 29. Joel Griffiths (21. Yairo Yau 65').

Sub Not Used: 33. Matthew Nash (Gk).

Yellow Cards: Ali Abbas 68'.

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark Paston (Gk), 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Alexander Smith, 7. Leo Bertos, 10. Stein Huysegems (8. Paul Ifill 65'), 11. Jeremy Brockie, 12. Tyler Boyd, 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 21. Daniel Sanchez (16. Louie Fenton 84'), 22. Andrew Durante.

Subs Not Used: 20. Glen Moss (Gk), 9. Benjamin Totori.

Yellow Cards: Vince Lia 38', Ben Sigmund 47', Jeremy Brockie 73'.

Phoenix Burnt to Ashes in Seven Goal Thrashing

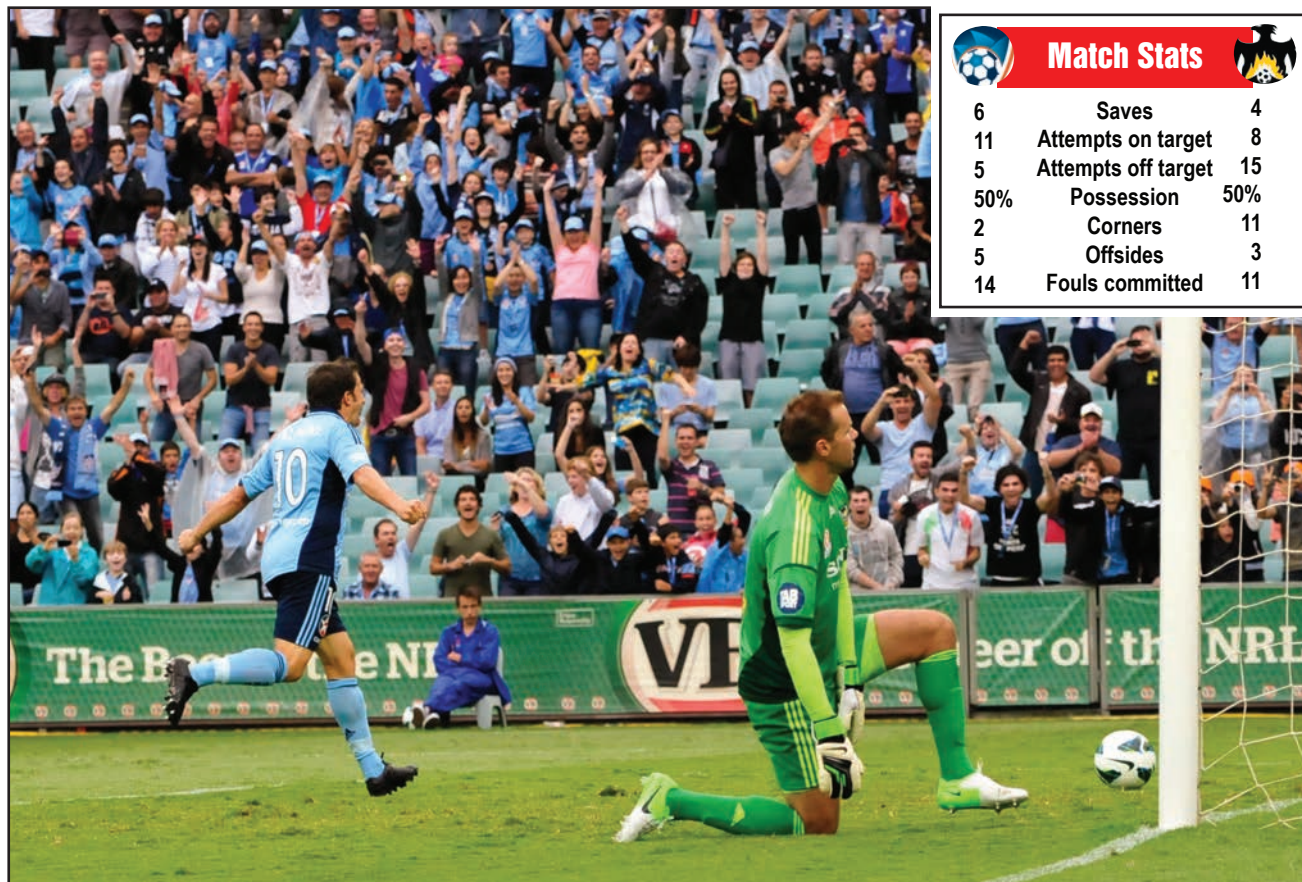
By Magnus Lewington

The levy broke on Saturday evening as Sydney's big-guns finally fired, emphatically defeating Wellington Phoenix in a seven goal demolition. Two notable talking points include a goal on debut from Joel Griffiths, and an Alessandro Del Piero master class contributing four goals and an assist in a whirlwind first half; ADP's hat-trick being the second fastest in A-League history.

With the game effectively put to bed at half time with a 5-0 score line, the performance demonstrated clinical finishing and a refreshingly energetic display from FC as they pummelled the Phoenix goal in the opening term. Continuing on from their last minute comeback victory against Melbourne Heart, Del Piero, Frank Farina and Sydney fans everywhere are hopeful that this display further reflects a turnaround in the Sky Blue's fortunes as they chase an A-League finals spot.

Farina stayed true to his word, handing debuts to recent recruits Joel Griffiths in attack and Tiago in central defence. The inclusion of Griffiths, recently returned from China's Superleague, proved a shrewd move from Farina as the former Newcastle striker latched onto a Del Piero through-ball and rolled the ball around Phoenix keeper from a tight angle in the 11th minute.

The game proceeded to explode as Sydney scored four goals in 18 minutes, with Del Piero netting three (a penalty included) as Jason Culina also got his name on the scoresheet with a fine strike from the edge of the area. With five goals netted 38 minutes from the start of play, Phoenix looked lacklustre, failing to close down Sydney's attacking movement and allowing Del Piero to both craft and complete Sydney's forward play. The movement of Griffiths, in terms of pace and direc-



SFC superstar Alessandro Del Piero makes no mistake from the spot to grab his second goal for the afternoon, and well on his way to a most memorable display of fantasy football. Photo: ALI ERHAN

tion, created extra space for Del Piero and Sydney's midfield in general to exploit which proved vital in the opening exchanges. With both experienced players and youth appearing to gel, Sydney coach Frank Farina will be hopeful his new look side will be more competitive against the competition big-guns as the season approaches its final stretch.

The second half continued much as the first had begun, with Sydney being the far more dangerous of the two sides despite having similar possession and territorial control to Phoenix. This was indicative of a more direct FC team, Culina, Emerton, Del Piero and Griffiths pushing

the ball up the pitch and into dangerous areas rapidly and with energy. The goals that followed, with Del Piero adding his fourth and Yau notching a late goal as his blistering pace beat the Phoenix defence, were mere formalities as Sydney closed out a match essentially won in the first half. Ben Sigmund scored a 78th minute consolation as the Sky Blues coasted to their biggest ever victory in the A-League. Despite the goal, Wellington rarely looked likely to score as the majority of their shots resulted from speculative efforts; reflected in 15 shots off target registered by them throughout the match.

Ricky Herbert reflected on Wel-

lington's performance as the worst of his long tenure as the club's coach. The defensive frailty of his back four and their failure to hold out Sydney to any significant extent underlined a fall from grace for the Phoenix, as they remain stuck to the basement of the League after four consecutive defeats. Matching Sydney's biggest ever victory with their own heaviest ever loss, the match seems to put the final nail in New Zealand's only A-League representative's coffin, as the bridge in both points and form between them and the upper-half of the League increases week by week.

On the other hand, Frank Farina attempted to temper the

Sky Blues' rapture by reminding them that this win, in combination with that against Heart, are merely the first steps on a long path to genuine success. He will be encouraged by the improved combinations in attack provided by the 'four marquee' of Del Piero, Culina, Emerton and Griffiths, however the size of this victory means nothing to Farina beyond "another three points". Though it underlines the team's credentials amidst their push for a top 6 finish - only one point away now - it must be buttressed by consistency and more back-to-back wins if Sydney are to prove themselves worthy of the a real assault on the championship.



ADP completes his hat-trick and makes it 5-0 with a jinking run and exquisite finish that brought the house down. Photo: GREG SEATON



Joel Griffiths wastes no time making his mark in Sydney FC colours with a goal on debut after only eleven minutes. Photo: ALI ERHAN

Match Stats		
6	Saves	4
11	Attempts on target	8
5	Attempts off target	15
50%	Possession	50%
2	Corners	11
5	Offsides	3
14	Fouls committed	11



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Newcastle Jets



0

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 0

Newcastle Jets 0

Attendance: 11,249

Referee: Alan Milliner

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (c), 11. Oliver Bozanic, 14. Michael McGlinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 17. Anthony Caceres (17' Montgomery 55'), 21. Mile Sterjovski (23. Adam Kwasiak 75')

Subs not used: 5. Zachary Anderson, 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
Yellow cards: Sterjovski
Red cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets: 2. Scott Neville, 4. Josh Mitchell, 7. James Brown, 8. Ruben Zadkovich (c), 9. Emile Heskey (17. James Virgili 61'), 11. Connor Chapman, 12. Joshua Brillante (16. Jobe Wheelhouse 89'), 13. Samuel Gallaway, 15. Craig Goodwin (26. Andrew Hoole 84'), 20. Mark Birighitti (Gk), 23. Ryan Griffiths

Subs not used: 1. Ben Kennedy (Gk)
Yellow cards: Zadkovich, Brown, Mitchell
Red cards: Nil

Rain Wins The Day As Honours Shared In 29th F3 Derby

By Tyson Scott

CENTRAL Coast Mariners and Newcastle Jets played out a 0-0 draw at a rain-soaked Bluetongue Stadium in the 29th F3 Derby on Saturday night.

The draw consolidates the Mariners position as Hyundai A-League leaders over second-placed Adelaide United who are three points adrift of top spot.

The stalemate also ensures Graham Arnold's team remain unbeaten at Gosford's idyllic bayside arena in season eight of Australia's top flight.

The gloomy conditions made it tough for both sides but it was debutant Anthony Caceres who had the first chance of the match, glancing his header at goal from a Pedj Bojic cross. Unfortunately for the yellow and navy, Caceres couldn't find enough power to trouble Jets gloveman Mark Birighitti nine minutes in.

Both teams found chances hard to come by in the first 45 however Craig Goodwin did manage a shot on target for Newcastle, while Oliver Bozanic struck a powerful shot a metre over the woodwork from long range.

Jets striker Emile Heskey proved a handful in the box as he leapt above the pack on two occasions. Nevertheless, the former England international couldn't direct either opportunity at goal.

In the 36th minute, Jets skipper Ruben Zadkovich brought Daniel McBreen down. Zadkovich was already sitting on a yellow card after a tackle in the 27th minute, and was lucky to escape with a lenient talking to from referee Alan Milliner.

Michael McGlinchey showcased some individual talent just five minutes later to craft himself the chance of the half and possibly the match as he broke down the right side, dancing past three defenders. McGlinchey shot from well inside the area but was denied by a leaping Birighitti who pulled off a stunning



Ryan Griffiths (Jets) and Michael McGlinchey try to come to grips with the torrential weather. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY

	Match Stats	
2	Saves	2
2	Attempts on target	3
5	Attempts off target	10
50%	Possession	50%
5	Corners	10
2	Offsides	0
7	Fouls committed	15

one-handed save to keep the score level.

On 44 minutes Joshua Brillante made Ryan work as he cannoned a powerful shot from distance at goal. The Mariners custodian reacted sharply, as he so often does, to palm the ball over the crossbar.

Much like the first stanza, both sides struggled to create many clear-cut opportunities to open the scoring after the break. A scuffle broke out after Joshua Mitchell received a yellow card in the 65th minute for bad tackle on Mariners substitute Nick Montgomery.

Tempers started to flare and determined tackles from Trent Sainsbury, Mile Sterjovski and Scott Neville highlighted the derby spirit on

display with just 20 minutes to play.

Sainsbury produced a well-timed sliding challenge on Jets attacker Ryan Griffiths who would otherwise have found himself one-on-one with Mariners custodian Ryan with 10 minutes left.

The Mariners probed the Jets down either flank as the minutes expired, and just lacked the final, killer ball to put their northern foes to the sword.

As the game wound down both sides had set-piece opportunities in their respective attacking third of the field. However, execution let both teams down as the sides were forced the leave the pitch at full-time goalless.

Central Coast Mariners Assistant

Coach, Phil Moss, who stood in for the suspended Arnold for the clash, said the Mariners could be satisfied with their efforts in the 29th edition of the F3 Derby.

"Arnie's (Graham Arnold's) philosophy since day one has been to keep clean sheets and to be hard to beat and be hard to break down, and I think we did well on that front tonight," Moss said.

"It was a scrap, it wasn't the prettiest game of football."

"I thought it could have gone either way, but our players' determination to keep a clean sheet was fantastic tonight and the senior boys led by example."

Moss said his preparation for his first Hyundai A-League game at the

helm of the Mariners was relatively routine thanks to how closely he, goalkeeping mentor John Crawley, and strength and conditioning coach Andrew Clark, work with the astute Arnold.

"The defensive discipline and structures were in place. The fight and determination not to give the game away had Graham Arnold written all over it," he said.

"I had great support from Arnie during the week and today during the day leading up to the game, and also from John Crawley and Andrew Clark. As a staff we do a lot of things together, we think very similar, and we shared the load tonight so it was no problem."



Mariner Michael McGlinchey gets some chalk on his boots as he finds some space down the touchline. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY



Newcastle's Craig Goodwin and Ruben Zadkovich chase down Michael McGlinchey. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY

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Brisbane Roar



1

West Sydney



2

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 1 (Mitch Nichols 22')
Western Sydney Wanderers 2
 (Mark Bridge 65', Youssouf Hersi 69')
 Sunday, 20 January 2013
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 Referee: Matt Gillett
 Crowd: 11,917

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 3. Shane Stefanutto (C), 4. Matt Jurman (26. Corey Brown 81'), 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Muroccca, 11. Ben Halloran (12. Julius Doe 81'), 15. James Donachie, 17. Mitch Nichols, 18. Luke Brattan (25. George Lambadaridis 54'), 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matt Acton
 Yellow Cards: Besart Berisha 70', Shane Stefanutto 72'
 Red Cards: Nil

Western Sydney Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic (Gk), 3. Adam D'appuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Michael Beauchamp (C), 6. Jerome Polenz, 7. Labinot Haliti (9. Dino Kresinger 63'), 8. Mateo Poljak, 10. Aaron Mooy, 17. Youssouf Hersi (18. Iacopo La Rocca 83'), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Shinji Ono

Substitutes Not Used: 2. Shannon Cole, 20. Jerrad Tyson (Gk)
 Yellow Cards: Nil
 Red Cards: Nil

Wanderers Keep The Wood Over Roar

By Jarrod Elis

Brisbane Roar's season continued to slide to what now appears a likely ignominious end, going down 2-1 to West Sydney Wanderers at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday evening.

Second half goals from Mark Bridge and Youssouf Hersi cancelled out Mitch Nichols strike and with the Roar failing to capitalise on their opportunities to equalise the A-League new boys proved their previous wins of the Roar were no flukes.

Brisbane was without Erik Paartalu and Matt Smith, the former departing during the transfer window for a stint in China whilst Smith was forced out due to injury. Luke Brattan and Matthew Jurman stepped into the respective breaches, more interest was focused on how Brattan performed as Brisbane began their life post-Paartalu, an ever-present presence in midfield for the past two seasons.

Brisbane showed signs of improvements from its last performance from referee Matt Gillett's opening whistle, their movement on and off the ball slicker than in previous weeks, resulting in a deserved lead after 22 minutes.

A long ball sprayed wide on the right wing, giving Ben Halloran some work to do to keep it in play before he played it back to Besart Berisha on the edge of the penalty box.

The Albanian striker tapped the ball forward to Brattan, who was edging his way forward and as the Wanderers defence closed in, the ball fell to Nichols who did well to slide it to Ante Covic's right from close range.

Brisbane looked the better side in the first half, if not entirely convincing and that must have been encouraging for a team that has failed to play to its potential so often this season.

However after the break all of Brisbane's hard work would be undone by a Wanderers side that seemed re-energized by their spell in the sheds.

After having struggled going forward in the first half West Sydney had suddenly found their mojo, causing Brisbane's defence headaches and creat-



Match Stats		
2	Saves	2
10	Attempts on target	5
5	Attempts off target	8
58%	Possession	42%
3	Corners	3
0	Offsides	8
10	Fouls committed	8

WSW players run over to their travelling supporters to celebrate Youssouf Hersi's goal. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

ing a number of chances.

First, Labinot Haliti clipped the cross-bar after he latched onto a long ball from skipper Michael Beauchamp before Mark Bridge, who scored the winner in the first meeting between these two sides back in October, sent his first time shot wide after he was picked out by Shinji Ono.

Brisbane then had a pair of chances of their own, Halloran shooting wide after a quick counterattack with Broich then the German playmaker opted to play a one-two with Berisha two minutes later when he could have

been more selfish and take the shot himself.

The missed chances proved costly soon after, when the Wanderers scored twice in four minutes to snatch the lead.

Bridge scored first for Western Sydney, striking the ball from 20 yards after he was teed up by a quick run from Jerome Polenz before Youssouf Hersi slalomed into the penalty box to beat Theo after confusion about a possible offside by Ono.

The home side pressed for an equaliser as the game wore on but as has

so often been the case this season their efforts amounted to nothing. Of the few positives to come out of the match for Brisbane there were debuts for Julius Doe and Corey Brown but neither youngster was able to pick up the slack from their more senior counterparts.

After the match Brisbane's Mike Mulvey said he and his players were bitterly disappointed with the result, but could find positives in the performance.

"What I will say is there are many bigger clubs in the world than Brisbane

Roar who have gone through rough trots, like we are having from a results perspective," he said.

"But if you look at the performance from last week and the performance this week, it was much improved, there was much more quality.

"One thing I promise is that we are hurting, there's no doubt about that, we are hurting badly but we also have a desire to improve.

"If you look at last week to this week, the improvement was good in terms of performance and in effort."



Mark Bridge cancels out Mitch Nicholl's opener. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



High flying Matt Jurman leaps over Dino Kresinger. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



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PICS OF ROUND 17

Les Shorrock's
Action Packed
Picture Page

ADP salutes The Cove and the admiration is mutually returned . Photo: GREG SEATON



Jason Culina gets in on the act and on the scoresheet in Sydney FC's big seventh heaven win over Phoenix. PHOTO: ALI ERHAN



Melbourne Heart's Yarra Side fans, complete with the iconic vinegar skipping girl, paint the town red. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



ROAR Captain Shane Steffanuto calms Berhart Berisha after berating the referees decision for WSW second goal. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



New SFC signing Joel Griffiths shows he's lost none of his predatory instincts after his stint in China. Photo: GREG SEATON



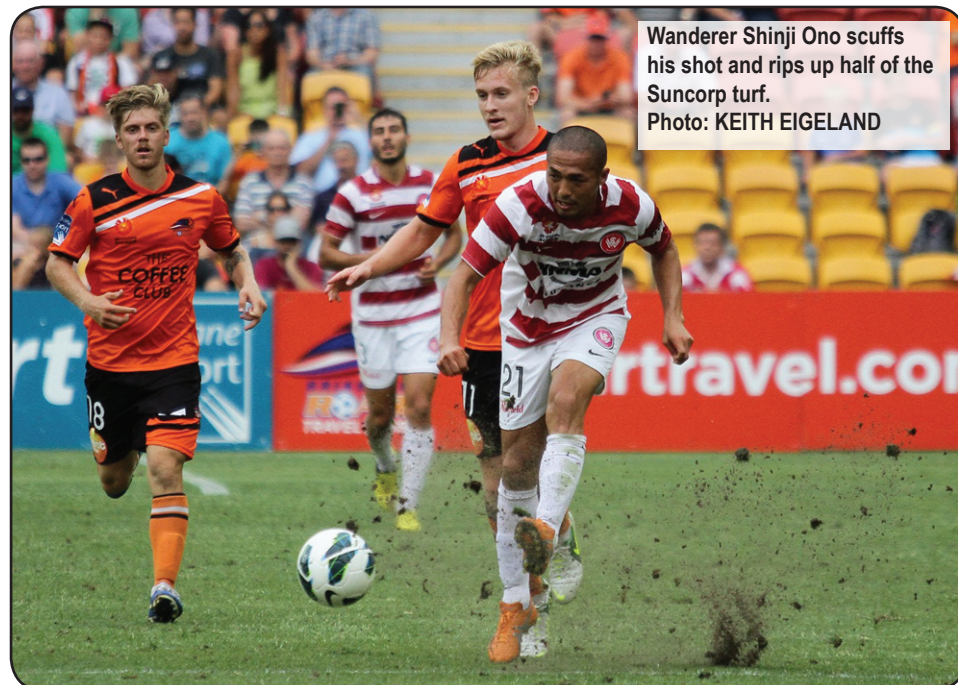
Ball boys and girls from Ballarat pose with the Heart mascot during the half time break at AAMI. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Perth Glory's Dean Heffernan is charged down by a high flying Mark Milligan from the Victory. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES



Wanderer Shinji Ono scuffs his shot and rips up half of the Suncorp turf. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND





Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
 2. Daniel McBreen
 3. Joshua Rose
 4. Pedj Bojic
 5. Zachary Anderson
 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
 7. John Hutchinson (c)
 8. Adriano Pellegrino
 9. Bernie Ibini
 11. Oliver Bozanic
 13. Brent Griffiths
 14. Michael McGlinchey
 15. Brad McDonald
 16. Trent Sainsbury
 17. Anthony Caceres
 18. Nick Montgomery
 19. Mitchell Duke
 20. Justin Pasfield
 21. Mile Sterjovski
 23. Adam Kwasnik
 26. Nick Fitzgerald
- *six to be omitted

In: 9. Bernie Ibini (returns from overseas), 8. Adriano Pellegrino, 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad McDonald, 19. Mitchell Duke (all promoted), 26. Nick Fitzgerald (new signing)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 22. James Oates (ankle – 2 months)



Victory Line Up

1. Tando VELAPHI (GK)
 3. Adama TRAORE
 5. Mark MILLIGAN
 6. Leigh BROXHAM
 8. Jonathan BRU
 9. Marcos FLORES
 10. Archie THOMPSON
 11. Marco ROJAS
 13. Diogo FERREIRA
 14. Billy CELESKI
 18. Francesco STELLA
 22. Jesse MAKAROUNAS
 23. Adrian LEIJER
 24. Nick ANSELL
 25. Luke O'DEA
 26. Andrew NABOUT
 39. Nathan COE (GK)
- *two to be omitted

Ins: 18. Francesco STELLA, 22. Jesse MAKAROUNAS (new signings), 14. Billy CELESKI (returns from suspension), 24. Nick ANSELL (returns from injury)

Outs: 21. Spase DILEVSKI (injured), 17. Jimmy JEGGO (injured)

Unavailable: 7. Gui FINKLER (knee)

CC Mariners v Adelaide United

By Adrian Deans

The last time these two met I suggested we might be watching a Grand Final Preview and not too much has changed since then. On the table at least.

The two teams are still first and second but the squads are evolving as we watch – Van Dijk and Caravella have been released from the Adelaide side and the Mariners are shedding stars like an entropic galaxy.

Tom Rogic will be present, to say goodbye to the fans, but Bernie Ibini will not. By all accounts he did very well in a Club Brugge youth team friendly, scoring two and setting up another, and is set for a permanent move to Belgium. Several others could also be on their way, but Arnold seems to have options in the all-conquering NYL team.

We saw the debut of Anthony Caceres last week, and while he was kept fairly quiet, he did show flashes of ability. We've also seen some impressive moments from Mitchell Duke who will likely now see more game time.

The departing players (so far) are from the sharp end of the field but the defence remains intact – and it's defence that has built the Mariners' season. Zac Anderson would walk into any other back two but struggles for game time when Zwaanswijk and Sainsbury are available.

Indeed, with all the transfer scrutiny on the Mariners, I've been



The Odds

Mariners 1.78
Draw 3.60
AUFC 4.75

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvREDS

amazed that nothing has been said about Sainsbury. He's been one of their best with amazing technique and game reading skills considering his tender years. Sainsbury has "Europe" and "Socceroo" stamped all over him.

Having said that, neither team are in great form. The Mariners, distracted by transfer speculation, have won two from their last six and the Reds have been unable to capitalise, having also won only two from the last six. This is a very good time for them to face the uncertain Mariners and get back in form away from the pressure of playing at home.

The Reds have had a few good

Fri Jan 25 Bluetongue Stdm 7:30pm

players out and may welcome back Carrusca this week. He was in red hot form before getting injured and any side featuring Dario Vidovic, Jeronimo Neumann, Travis Dodd and Bruce Djite has plenty of options up front.

The key to beating the Mariners is closing down Rose and Bojic. When Adelaide visited Bluetongue last year they did exactly that for 45 minutes and went in one nil up at the interval. But when they came back out they changed tactics and sat deep to protect their lead. It was all Mariners after that (for a 3 – 2 win) and I expect Kossie to use his substitutes to maintain the pressure on the Mariners'

wide men on Friday night.

This will be a really intriguing match with the Reds eyeing the opportunity to go equal top. For the Mariners, it's a six-point thriller with their premiership credentials well and truly on the line.

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mr Cleansheets* – published by *Vulgar Press*, distributed by *Dennis Jones and Associates* and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available. www.mrcleansheets.com

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 1-1 Adelaide**



Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
3. Nigel Boogaard
4. Jon McKain
6. Cassio
8. Marcelo Carrusca
10. Dario Vidovic
12. Antony Golec
14. Cameron Watson
16. Daniel Bowles
17. Iain Ramsay
18. Fabian Barbiero
19. Jake Barker-Daish
20. Paul Izzo (gk)
21. Jeronimo Neumann
23. Evan Kostopoulos

In: Nigel Boogaard (returns from injury), Marcelo Carrusca (returns from injury), Paul Izzo (gk) (returns from injury)

Out: Iain Fyfe (omitted), Zenon Caravella (released), John Hall (gk) (returns to NYL)

Unavailable: Bruce Djite (groin – 2 weeks), Fabio Ferreira (groin – 2-3 weeks)

Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC

By Andrew Bishara

It was reported that both Liverpool and Juventus representatives will be present at the Blockbuster clash between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC this Saturday night. Why are they coming? Well, that's the bad news for the Victory.

They'll be attending the game to scout Victory winger (and one of the hottest players in the league right now) Marco Rojas. According to reports, these representatives have been keeping their eye on the Kiwi international for a couple of weeks, and should he impress in one of the A-League's biggest derbies, a transfer bid isn't out of the question.

Not that it seems to have distracted Ange Postecoglou's men. Their scrappy 1-0 win over Perth Glory last week, coupled with the 2-0 loss Adelaide endured to Melbourne Heart, and the Central Coast's draw with Newcastle, means that Victory are now with the chance of stealing a top-two finish.

They are only behind Adelaide by two points, and if they continue their impressive form of late, they can certainly catch up. But it won't be easy. Especially now that Sydney FC has risen from the ashes.

That's all due down to Frank Farina, who slowly but surely put his mark on a club that seemed a com-



The Odds

Victory 1.83
Draw 3.60
SFC 4.33

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVvSYD

plete rabble earlier in the season. So much so, that it was headed for its worst year in its history.

Sydney was leaderless, emotionally unstable thanks to dressing room problems, annoyed fans, a hated boardroom and a lack of experience in the managerial post. Even when the club announced Farina, many thought he wasn't going to change too much. That the team was going to still suffer.

And they did. Bottom of the table, many thought that Farina was building the team for next season. Even this journalist admitted as much. The finals were considered a bit of stretch for the Sky Blues. That was then and this is now.

Sydney finds itself four points clear of last spot and, more importantly, just a point outside the top six and with a chance to produce one of the league's best turnarounds.

Not that Farina is getting carried away, especially after his side's 7-1 demolition of the Wellington Phoenix last week.

"Let's be brutally honest, everyone realises the situation we're in," said Farina. "Most probably we're fighting for sixth spot and a place in the finals, that's what we can aim for. There's a long, long way to go - another 10 games for us to get something out of," said Farina

Which makes this week's game even more exciting. So much so that even Farina admits it's going to be tough.

"Melbourne Victory will be a really tough challenge, they're a good side - you go to Perth and win, you know you've got something."

Sydney will be banking on the form of Del Piero to lead them across the line, but Victory smell blood at the top of the table. A rejuvenated Sydney will put Melbourne to the test, which is why a draw isn't out of the question.

**Kiss of Death
Victory 1-1 Sydney FC**



Sydney FC Line Up

2. Sebastian Ryall
 3. Fabio
 6. Jason Culina
 7. Brett Emerton
 8. Adam Griffiths
 9. Paul Reid
 10. Alessandro Del Piero
 12. Blake Powell
 13. Tiago Calvano
 15. Terry McFlynn
 17. Terry Antonis
 18. Trent McClenahan
 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
 21. Yairo Yau
 22. Ali Abbas
 23. Rhyann Grant
 29. Joel Griffiths
 33. Matthew Nash (gk)
- *three to be omitted

Ins: Adam Griffiths (returns from injury), Paul Reid, Terry Antonis (both promoted).

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Pascal Bosschart (heel, season), Ivan Necevski (ankle, 1 week), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 8 weeks), Joel Chianese (thigh, 2 weeks).



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Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'Apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
16. Rocky Visconte
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
*six to be omitted

Ins: 15. Reece Caira, 11. Tarek Elrich, 13. Joey Gibbs, 23. Jason Trifiro, 16. Rocky Visconte, 14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (all promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Tahj Minniecon (foot indefinite)

WS Wanderers v Melbourne Heart

Sat Jan 26 Parramatta Stadium 7:45pm

By Alex Milic

Vince Grella is set to make his A-League debut as the Melbourne Heart visit Parramatta Stadium in Round 18 of the A-League.

The Wanderers are currently fourth with an eight point gap between them and the Heart who are one place under Tony Popovic's side.

Two second half goals last week gave the Wanderers a comeback win against the defending Premiers with goals to Mark Bridge Youssouf Hersi giving the red and whites three crucial points and distancing them with the rest of the pack.

Goals to Josip Tadic and Richard Garcia gave the Heart three valuable points last week in their 2:0 win against Adelaide United, this week it will be a much tougher encounter as they take on the Wanderers who are backed by some of the best fans in the league.

The Heart may have a huge boost up front with the return of Eli Babalj who failed to succeed and battle a spot in the ranks of former European Champions Red Star.

Babalj made six appearances for Red Star, but his fortunes changed after Robert Prosinecki, the coach who signed him, left the club at the start of the season. The tall striker failed to adapt to the Serbian League and is now back in Australia looking to fine the form

ABC Radio Coverage – Updates Only

Referee: Strebre Delovski

Heart enters the cauldron

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WSWvMH

which attracted the interest of the Belgrade red and whites. Babalj scored nine goals in 22 A-League games for Heart last season.

John Aloisi, manager, Melbourne Heart says, "Vinnie trained yesterday and looked strong, but we'll see how he pulls up. It's always the day after which is important for a player in his position. He worked hard on Friday, it was probably a tougher session than what he'll do with the team. But we are happy with his fitness levels at the moment."

The left back position is up for grabs with Aziz Behich suspended after picking up a fifth yellow - a

huge blow as the Wanderers' Youssouf Hersi is among the form right wingers in the A-League.

With winger Golgol Mebrahtu still a week away, midfielder Nick Kalmar looks is set to make a rare start for the Heart.

"It's a good opportunity for Nicky Kalmar. I've been really happy with him in recent weeks,"

"Western Sydney is a good side. They're very well organised and because of this their danger men, like Shinji Ono, Hersi and Mark Bridge, can cause problems," concludes Aloisi.

Wanderers top goalscorer Mark Bridge says, "I've had players

from opposing teams at half-time or before the game who ask if the fans are like this every week. They said they can't believe we get to play in front of that every week. It's like Europe."

With crowds tracking at between 13,000 and 14,000, the fifth-placed Heart is certain of a warm reception. As good as the Wanderers have been in their debut season, their record at home isn't as solid as they were hoping for with four wins, four losses and a draw from nine outings at Parramatta.

**Kiss of Death
Wanderers 3-1 Heart**

MELBOURNE
HEART



Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
4. Simon Colosimo
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
10. Josip Tadic
11. Richard Garcia
13. Jonatan Germano
14. Golgol Mebrahtu
15. David Williams
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
19. Ben Garuccio
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
24. Sam Mitchinson
25. Jeremy Walker
31. Vince Grella
36. Eli Babalj

Ins: 18. David Vrankovic, 19. Ben Garuccio, 21. Steven Gray, 24. Sam Mitchinson, 36. Eli Babalj (pending transfer from Red Star Belgrade)

Outs: 5. Fred (quad – three weeks), 16. Aziz Behich (suspended – one week), 9. Dylan Macallister (groin strain – two weeks)

Unavailable: 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season)



Glory Line Up

1. Danny Vukovic (gk)
2. Jack Clisby
3. Bas van den Brink
5. Steve Pantelidis
6. Nick Ward
7. Jacob Burns (c)
8. Dean Heffernan
9. Shane Smeltz
11. Adrian Zahra
12. Ryo Nagai
13. Travis Dodd
14. Steven McGarry
15. Brandon O'Neill
17. Chris Harold
18. Jesse Makarounas
21. Scott Jamison
22. Ndumba Makeche
23. Michael Thwaite
30. Lewis Italiano (gk)
*four to be omitted

Ins: 2. Jack Clisby, 11. Adrian Zahra, Brandon O'Neill, 22. Ndumba Makeche (all promoted), 23. Michael Thwaite (returns from injury).

Outs: 10. Liam Miller, 19. Josh Rison (both suspended – 1 game)

Unavailable: Nil

Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar

Sat Jan 26 nib Stadium 9:45pm

By FFA

Last season's A-League grand finalists head into Saturday's fixture undermanned and desperate for victory after a dreadful start to 2013. Perth Glory have not won this year with just a draw from three matches, while reigning champions Brisbane Roar have notched one victory from four games in 2013.

That win came back on New Year's Day, however, and Brisbane have now lost three on the trot, slumping to second bottom on the A-League ladder. The Roar gave up a first-half lead at home last week as Western Sydney stormed back to win 2-1 and Brisbane copped a couple of extra blows with Besart Berisha and Shane Steffanuto both receiving their fifth yellow cards of the season, meaning they will miss the trip to Perth.

At least one of Matt Smith and Jade North will be expected to come into the Roar's back four against Perth having been rested last week, while Brisbane head coach Mike Mulvey will need to get creative to find a replacement for Berisha. Mulvey made it clear before the January transfer window that he wanted to sign a new striker but having thus far failed to do so, the Manchester-born manager has no obvious understudy for Berisha.

Perth could be missing defenders Bas van den Brink, Steve Pantelidis and Michael Thwaite, who are all battling injury issues, while midfielder Liam Miller is suspended. Glory winger Travis Dodd believes 18-year-old Brandon O'Neill could cover Miller's position but head coach Ian

ABC Radio Coverage - 720 Perth and WA Regional Stations, Grandstand Digitals and online

The Odds

Glory 2.30
Draw 3.40
Roar 3.10

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PGvBR

Referee: Alan Milliner

Ferguson has very few central defensive options left.

The big issue

Perth Glory - Dean Heffernan has done a good job filling in as a central defender for Perth over the past month and Ferguson will undoubtedly expect the 32-year-old to anchor his back four if Van den Brink, Pantelidis and Thwaite all fail to play against Brisbane. But who will Ferguson select alongside Heffernan? Captain Jacob Burns would probably do a decent job but with Miller suspended, Ferguson will be wary of pulling his midfielder apart to fix his defence. One way or another, Glory look certain to select at least one player out of position.

Brisbane Roar - Mulvey has led the Roar to two victories in his six games in charge, since taking over from Rado Vidosic before Christmas, but with Brisbane sitting just a point ahead of last-placed Wellington Phoenix, can the new man do enough over the final 10 matches of the season to earn a new contract? Mulvey's deal expires at the end of the season and it is hard to imagine Brisbane's owners will be keen to keep him as head coach if the Roar finish in the bottom two.

Gamebreaker

Thomas Broich. Berisha's absence will leave a big goal-scoring hole in Brisbane's line-up, with the Albanian striker having scored eight of the Roar's 20 goals this season. Broich

was used as a false nine on a couple of occasions last season and his ability to control the ball under pressure, plus his powerful shot, could make him the best possible replacement for Berisha.

Do not expect too many goals at nib Stadium on Saturday night. Perth are the worst attacking team in the A-League this season with just 18 goals in 17 games, while Brisbane will be missing their lead striker. With Glory's injury issues in defence and the Roar having kept just three clean sheets this campaign, both sides seem to have equal problems heading into Round 18. A draw seems the most likely outcome.

**Kiss of Death
Glory 1-1 Roar**



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk) (c)
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
8. Massimo Murodocca
11. Ben Halloran
12. Julius Doe
13. Jade North
15. James Donachie
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (gk)
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
25. George Lambadaridis
26. Corey Brown
*one to be omitted

Ins: 13. Jade North (promoted), 19. Jack Hingert (returns from injury)

Outs: 3. Shane Stefanutto (suspended – 1 week), 7. Besart Berisha (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: Do Dong-Hyun (knee – 1 week), Henrique (hip injury – 1 week), Matt Smith (hip injury – 2 weeks)



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Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
 2. Manny Muscat
 3. Tony Lochhead
 6. Alex Smith
 7. Leo Bertos
 8. Paul Ifill
 9. Benjamin Totori
 10. Stein Huysegems
 11. Jeremy Brockie
 12. Tyler Boyd
 14. Ian Hogg
 16. Louis Fenton
 18. Ben Sigmund
 20. Glen Moss (GK)
 21. Dani Sanchez
 22. Andrew Durante (C)
- *one to be omitted

In: 2. Manny Muscat (returns from suspension), 14. Ian Hogg (promoted)..

Out: 17. Vince Lia (suspended)

Unavailable: 17. Vince Lia (suspended)

Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle

Sun Jan 27 Westpac Stadium 2:30pm

By Joe Gallagher

Wellington Phoenix have hit rock bottom.

That's a point that cannot be understated this week and coach Ricki Herbert will be one of many involved at the club feeling the heat after last weekend's mauling at the hands of Sydney FC.

The scoreline – 7-1 – says all that is needed about the club's darkest day.

While far from mathematically out of the running for a playoffs position, Wellington already seem likely to miss the finals for the first time in four years. Directionless, clueless, and pointless in 2013, the Phoenix are in crisis.

Meanwhile their visitors on Sunday, Newcastle Jets, feature in a mid-table logjam for the last two post-season positions. Three points at Westpac Stadium would push them away from the chasing pack, and towards the competitions frontrunners.

To win at Westpac Stadium will no longer be considered such a tall order for Gary van Egmond's side. Not since September 2007 has a Novocastrian side won in New Zealand's capital, and since that day the Jets have lost eight straight in Wellington. During that run they have conceded 23, and scored only 3.

But the events of recent times will have washed out the impregnable aura of Westpac Stadium. There will probably be no better a time for the Jets to break their hoodoo



Referee: Ben Williams

The Odds

Phoenix 2.45
Draw 3.40
Jets 3.00

Jets Look To Break Hoodoo Against Lost Phoenix

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #ROARvWSW

ABC Radio Coverage – 1233 Newcastle and online

across the Tasman, and van Egmond will know that.

He will be without Ruben Zadkovich, who picked up his fifth yellow card of the season during last weekend's F3 derby, but club captain Jobe Wheelhouse looks set to take on more game time in his long comeback from injury.

His side are unbeaten in three games without conceding a goal, a luxury the Phoenix couldn't be further from. Herbert's side are without a solitary point in the New Year, scoring twice and leaking 13 goals in the process.

He will need to extract every last ounce of energy and skill from his

troops this weekend as they look to point their season in the right direction.

He may also need more than his fair share of luck to resurrect a season that will surely be considered his worst at the helm of the New Zealand-based side.

Star Paul Ifill might return to the starting eleven, in place of Belgian striker Stein Huysegems, who was wasteful in front of goal in Sydney. Meanwhile newly signed left-back Ian Hogg may have earned a call up after the disastrous performance of his colleagues on Saturday evening.

The Phoenix's ownership has de-

manded a shift in playing philosophy in recent weeks; to value an attractive style of play.

But this weekend anybody – from owners to coach, players to fans – in Wellington will take the points however they can get them. Ugly or not, the win must be a top priority.

Something has got to give on Sunday afternoon – will the Phoenix break their duck this year, or will the Jets shatter their Wellington hoodoo?

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 1-1 Jets



Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
2. Scott Neville
3. Zenon Caravella
7. James Brown
9. Emile Heskey
11. Connor Chapman
12. Josh Brillante
13. Sam Galloway
14. Taylor Regan
15. Craig Goodwin
16. Jobe Wheelhouse
17. James Virgili
18. Jacob Pepper
19. Michael Bridges
20. Mark Birighitti (gk)
22. Adam Taggart
23. Ryan Griffiths
25. Mitch Cooper
26. Andrew Hoole.

Ins: Zenon Caravella (new signing), Taylor Regan (returning from injury), Adam Taggart, Jacob Pepper, Michael Bridges, Mitch Cooper (all promoted)

Outs: Josh Mitchell (suspended), Ruben Zadkovich (suspended)

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (knee), Dominik Ritter (hamstring), Josh Mitchell (suspended), Ruben Zadkovich (suspended)

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

There have been some fantastic rivalries and derby encounters throughout the history of Australian football. From the National Soccer League era, to the refurbished A-League competition, we've witnessed some classic encounters.

In the A-League's eighth season, we've seen numerous clubs build hostilities with their comparative foes – whether it is the F3 derby between Newcastle and Central Coast or the Victorian, South Australian divide which sees Victory lock horns with Adelaide – they've all played an important role in the competition's identity.

The cross-town rivalries – while still in its infant stages – have certainly added a sense of excitement and theatre to the competition. The Melbourne derby is continuing to thrive each season, not only on the pitch, but also off it. The

atmosphere, tension and drama generated at these fixtures are rather unique; a sight which could easily rival many football matches in European and South American leagues. The city's battle for supremacy has yielded a great advertisement for the competition.

The Melbourne derby, in conjunction with the newly established Sydney version, while great for the A-League, have somewhat been manufactured – with the evolution of the competition's franchise policy.

However, when we examine the rivalry between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC, this contest goes far beyond the eight-year history of the A-League, on the contrary it dates back to over 100 years of hostilities between the nation's largest and most powerful cities.

Melburnians and Sydneysiders have never seen eye to eye on many issues, whether it be on a political basis, in a sporting contest, or the never-ending debate of which city is the superior. The enmity between the two states has been evident for many generations, and it will continue to cultivate for many more to come.

For these reasons, the 'Big

Big Blue, Australia's national derby



Fans add much colour and excitement adds to the spectacle of the Big Blue Derby. PHOTO: TIM SIZE

Blue' clash, also known as the City Derby, between Australia's two biggest football clubs – and markets – is the biggest encounter in Australian football. Similarly to the Derby d'Italia between Inter and Juventus, the El Clásico between Real Madrid and Barcelona or the

distinguished match-up between Manchester United and Liverpool, the Big Blue rivalry sets the tone for Australia's city-based derby.

The now annual Australia Day clash is etched as a new tradition between the two great foes. Saturday's fixture is set to be

one of the most highly anticipated games in the A-League's history. It will be the first time Italian luminary Alessandro Del Piero visits Melbourne – following his four-goal exhibition against the besieged Wellington Phoenix last weekend. The game has officially sold out at

AAMI Park, an arena which fosters a strong case as being the best football stadium in the country.

The occasion is set to be a thriller. A fervent atmosphere is anticipated, not only for the arrival of Del Piero and his Sky Blues teammates, but for the rejuvenated Melbourne Victory, a club which has risen from the ashes under the tutorship of Ange Postecoglou, seemingly en route for a serious tilt at this season's championship.

On this occasion, it's difficult to go past Victory, given their recent run of form, and resurgence under Ange this season. Playing at home, in-front of a full-house in navy blue, the hosts are expected to seize the city's bragging rights. However, when accessing Sydney, newly signed striker Joel Griffiths could very well cause Melbourne some major issues up front, as he's done consistently with his previous clubs, while Del Piero, Brett Emerton and Jason Culina also pose threats going forward.

Victory should have enough firepower to get the three points, but it will be anything but easy.

Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio

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One of Del Piero's greatest strengths as a footballer is his versatility, which allows him to play a variety of attacking positions. Del Piero is a supporting-striker and occasionally between the half and the strikers, in a playmaker's position, due to his vision, ability and creativity. Del Piero is regarded by critics as creative in attacking play, as well as scoring himself, opposed to just "goal poaching"

goal!
weekly



ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO
Alessandro
10

Planet Football

Singapore



By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: Singapore
CAPITAL: Singapore
POPULATION: (2012 approx.) 5,312,400
CONFEDERATION: AFC
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: ASEAN/AFF/Tiger Cup winners 1998, 2004, 2007, 2012; South-East Asian Games runners-up 1983, 1985, 1989, bronze-medalists 1975, 1991-95.
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 154th
ASIAN CUP APPEARANCES: 1984
WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: N/A

WHO ARE YA?

Situated in the southernmost tip of the Malay Peninsula in South-East Asia, the Republic of Singapore is a city-state with a long and chequered history. Since the 2nd Century AD the city-state has been seized, relinquished and taken over again by scores of warring sultanates and adjoining kingdoms, before the European colonial powers began venturing into the region. It was the British with the entrepreneurial clout of the East India Company which eventually established Singapore as a key British trading port in the early 19th Century - eventually it was made part of the Straits Settlements(subordinate to British India) before the dissolution of the East India Company in the 1870s. During this time trade had encouraged many to emigrate to Singapore and the outlying regions(now part of Malaysia) from China, the



The spoils of victory as Singapore players celebrate their 2012 AFF Cup Final triumph over Thailand

Indian Subcontinent and other parts of Southern Asia, which have contributed to the cultural and ethnic mix that characterises Singapore today.

The fate of the colony was thrown into chaos when the Japanese invaded and seized Singapore early on in WWII; a catalyst for Australia and New Zealand's close military alliance with the US(reaffirmed by the postwar ANZUS Treaty). The Japanese surrender at war's end also marked the end of nearly 4 years of atrocities visited by them upon the ethnic-Chinese Singaporeans in addition to the Australian/British-Commonwealth POWs.

In the 1950s Singaporean politics was characterised by renewed calls for increased autonomy and/or outright independence from Britain - in 1959 Singapore was granted self-governance within the Commonwealth, only for it to join with newly-independent Malaysia in 1963. This did not last long due to the significant differences in ethnicity, religion and socio-economic clout between the two and thus Singapore seceded in 1965, becoming a charter member of ASEAN two years later.

Since then Singapore has developed into one of the economic powerhouses of the region(hence its label of one of the '4 Asian Ti-

gers/Dragons' ie. 4 most-powerful economies of Asia) despite criticism over its use of capital punishment and curtailing of certain civil rights - perhaps most notably, the total prohibition of chewing gum.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Though Singapore has never been one of Asian football's powerhouses, it has a formidable record at regional level and its domestic S-League was once on the cusp of potentially-becoming one of the richest in Asia due to the mid-'90s Asian economic boom. At international level the country boasts 4 titles of the South-East Asian championship(known throughout history as the ASEAN, AFF or Tiger Cup), the most recent coming in December 2012, as well as silverware in the football event of the South-East Asian Games. On a larger scale the country has only achieved a single Asian Cup finals appearance(1984 as hosts, crashing out in the 1st round) and never come close to threatening for WC qualification.

Their performance in capturing their latest AFF Cup crown last month was offset only by losses to Indonesia and Malaysia in the group-stage - afterward only a first-leg semi-final draw with the Philippines proved thier only hic-



Singapore's Bosnian-Aussie striker Alex Duric (left) out-muscles his Filipino marker.

cup before storming to the title against Thailand in the 2-legged final, 3-2 on aggregate.

BIG CLUBS

The S-League has boasted a plethora of clubs throughout its 18-year existence; chief amongst the mainstays are Home United, Albirex Singapore(a feeder-offshoot of Japanese J-League side Albirex Niigata), Tampines Rovers, Geylang United(now International), Young Lions(actually the Singapore Olympic/U23 team), Brunei DPMM FC(from the nearby Sultanate), Singapore Armed Forces (the former army-backed club which recently rebranded itself Warriors FC) and Woodlands Wellington.

Gombak United have withdrawn from this season due to financial difficulties, as have Etoile FC, a French ethnic-club of sorts.

Interestingly the Singapore FA has made a habit of inviting foreign clubs to compete (to the AFC's chagrin) as guests in its national Cup competition - guest participants in recent years include Thai sides Chonburi, Bangkok Glass, Bangkok University and TTM Chiangmai, as well as our own South Melbourne FC.

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed the Lions, the Singapore NT wears all-red with white trims; the traditional away is inverted but in recent times have taken to wearing a navy-blue top (as worn in their recent AFF Cup win vs. Thailand). As for the clubs Albirex S. wear a flesh-tone kit with white and black trims, the Young Lions wear the template of the senior NT, Tampines Rovers wear yellow with black trims, Geylang Inter wear Celtic-esque green and white hoops, Home United wear all-red, Brunei wear an AC Milan-esque red&black number, whilst Woodlands Wellington wear pale yellow with black.

MATCHWINNERS

Virtually the entire current national-squad is home-based save for the contingent plying their trade for LionsXII, a Malaysian Super League club serving as a de facto Singapore NT. Amongst them are the national captain and VC, midfielder/striker Shahril Ishak and midfielder Hariss Harun, but surely the most distinctive presence in the Lions' squad is that of Bosnian-born, Aussie-raised Aleksandar 'Alex' Duric. The 192cm, 42-year old striker cut his teeth at several NSL clubs in the '90s - South Melbourne, Gippsland Falcons, West Adelaide and Mar-

coni among them - before joining Home United in 2000, eventually qualifying for citizenship and making his international debut for Singapore in 2007 against Tajikistan in a World Cup qualifier. So far he has amassed 54 caps and 27 goals for Singapore, and also played in the Nike V-League Futsal comp in Melbourne a few years ago.

SO WHAT NOW?

With the Lions reaffirming their status as a regional power, it stands to reason to see if they have what it takes to step up to the next level and challenge for Asian/World Cup qualification in coming years. Of immediate concern to the Singaporeans is appointing a permanent replacement for longtime coach and architect of the recent AFF Cup win, the Serb-born Radjko 'Raddy' Avramovic. Given their recent WC elimination, Russia 2018 looms as their date with destiny on that front although they have the 2015 Asian Cup, to be held here in Australia, to aim for in the immediate short-term. However, placed as they are in an all-Middle Eastern group(A) consisting of Jordan, Syria and Oman, the odds look extra-long considering the stresses that travel to and from that harsh-climate region will present for the Lions.



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

Nut-Meg Dept.

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

Greedy Alessandro Del Piero grabbed four goals in Sydney's 7-1 win over Wellington Phoenix on the weekend. I call him greedy because he should really have offered referee Kris Griffith-Jones the opportunity to convert the penalty, the decision to award it being one of the worst I have ever seen.

Australian's have never been very fond of "dobbers" and other whistleblowing types. It's not the done thing being something you learned in the primary school playground. It was a rule reinforced

when watching Prisoner and learning what Bea Smith did to the "lagers" in Wentworth Detention Centre, grabbing their arm and putting it under the hot ironing press. Get shivers walking past a dry cleaners to this day. Now I'm digressing. Anyway, point is, I don't care if Graham Arnold tries to get a few instructions out when under a one-game suspension. And neither should the opposition. Worry about your own game and forget about complaining about trivialities to the officials. That's little brother running off crying to Mummy stuff, which is just sad.

First month of the new year almost over, and the FFV VPL website hasn't had anything new put on it for 2013 yet. I'd suggest an article titled "We Don't Really Care About the VPL" where the FFV could just come clean about the state of play in Victoria.

The almost mythical Vince Grella is apparently all set to make his debut for Melbourne Heart. He signed, he was still injured. He fell off the radar, taking a long time to get right. Maybe someone closed the lid on the wheelie bin ice bath and he got trapped for a day or two? Who knows? But now, he is



Heart's new Brazilian signing Oscar absolutely loved the ice bath facilities at the club...

back and ready to play. It's a story of persistence and hard work, that puts that layabout Harry Kewell to shame.

Noticed that new Brisbane Signing Julius Davies was being referred to as Julius Doe by the Fox commentary team. Is he going to start using his middle name as his surname in some kind of re-branding program the Roar may be forcing on their players? Theoklitos to Theo, Davies to Doe, what next? Stefanutto is a long

name to put on a shirt, maybe he will soon be Shane Stef. With Australia Day approaching, it would be a great time for George Lambardidis to become Georgie Lamb. I'm sure Australian Ambassador Sam Kekovich could get involved in a ceremony and resulting promotional opportunities.

Craig Foster really has his finger on the pulse, his article on the New Breed of Australian Coaches Having Export Potential included a line stating "the likes of Aloisi,



No chance of a sneaky handball here as Top Dog Beas Smith crushes the hand of a lagger whilst dry cleaning the Wentworth XI team kit, in preparation for the derby against the Screws XI ...

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Dance Off Champion 2012/13

Central Coast Mariners	3.75
Melbourne Victory	4.00
Adelaide United	5.00
West Sydney Wanderers	7.00
Perth Glory	17.0
Newcastle Jets	23.0
Brisbane Roar	13.0
Sydney FC	13.0
Melbourne Heart	15.0
Wellington Phoenix	41.0

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Victory to host Sydney FC in Grand Final

By FFA

Melbourne Victory will host Sydney FC in next Sunday's Westfield W-League 2013 Grand Final at AAMI Park after the pair edged into the decider with epic semi-final victories over Perth Glory and Brisbane Roar respectively.

The Championship decider will be shown in full at the new time of 3.30pm nationally on ABC1.

Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC both defeated teams that finished higher than them on the league ladder to once again emphasise the tightness of the 2012/13 competition.

Sydney survived a fast-finishing Brisbane to win 3-2 on Saturday, while Melbourne edged past Perth on penalties after 120 minutes of action could not separate the two sides.

Victory broke their finals drought by winning into their maiden Grand Final, having lost in their previous two semi-final appearances.

A marathon contest against the Glory was full of action and goal-mouth drama but the two sides could only conjure a goal apiece, with Melbourne eventually prevailing 4-3 on penalties in the Perth heat.

Laura Spiranovic opened the scoring early in the second half but Glory's Collette McCallum restored parity within a matter of minutes.

The ever-impressive Victory goalkeeper Brianna Davey made two blocks during the shoot-out, allowing Jessica McDonald the opportunity to fire home the winning spot-kick.



Roar's Tameka Butt congratulates Emily Gielnik for scoring the opening goal against SFC. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

A day earlier Sydney FC, having only edged into the finals on the last day of the season, scored an impressive comeback win against premiers and long-term rivals Brisbane Roar.

A typically hard-fought encounter between the pair opened with Emily Gielnik scoring for the Roar, before the Sky Blues stormed back in impressive fashion courtesy of a Sam Kerr double and a spectacular Annalie Longo strike.

Vedrana Popovic pulled a goal back in the latter stages of the second half leaving Sydney, reduced to 10 players following the dismissal of Emma Kete, forced to work overtime to defy the two-time champions who will miss their first ever Grand Final in five seasons of competition.



Samantha Kerr celebrates after netting to give Sydney a two goal advantage and a final's berth within grasp. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



Sydney FC celebrate their win to get into the final. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Semi Final Results

Brisbane Roar 2 (Emily Gielnik 14', Vedrana Popovic 76')
Sydney FC 3 (Annalie Longo 20', Samantha Kerr 30'/60')
Saturday 19 January 2013
Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre
Local kick-off: 3pm
Referee: Peta McCallum

Perth Glory 1 (Collette McCallum 56')
Melbourne Victory 1 (Laura Spiranovic 52')
(Melbourne win 4-3 on penalties)
Sunday 20 January 2013
nib Stadium
Local kick-off: 1pm
Referee: Katie Patterson

W-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Brisbane Roar	12	8	2	2	28	15	13
2 Perth Glory	12	7	3	2	34	20	14
3 Melbourne Victory	12	7	2	3	26	14	12
4 Sydney FC	12	6	2	4	30	24	6
5 Canberra United	12	5	3	4	25	20	5
6 WS Wanderers	12	4	1	7	19	23	-4
7 Newcastle Jets	12	1	3	8	15	33	-18
8 Adelaide United	12	2	0	10	12	40	-28

Grand Final Details

Melbourne Victory
v
Sydney FC
Sunday, 27 January 2013
Venue: AAMI Park, Melbourne
Local Kick-Off: 3.30pm AEDT
Gates Open: 2.30pm

Ticket Prices – General Public
Adult - \$15
Child 13 -16/Concession - \$8

Children 12 and under free

All KO times ae AEDT

Underdogs Take Centre Stage In Women's Showpiece

By Ann Odong

Grand Final Preview

Third placed Melbourne Victory host fourth placed Sydney FC in the 2013 W-League Grand Final. To say that it was not the Championship decider expected is an understatement but after prevailing over their higher placed semi-finals opponents, no-one can dispute that these two sides deserve the chance to play off for the 2012/13 title.

It has been a season of trials and tribulations for Melbourne and Sydney as they were forced to overcome pre and mid-season setbacks.

Victory lost their coach of two seasons Vicki Linton on the eve of kick off before securing the services of Mike Mulvey the week of the season opener.

One crisis was averted only to be blindsided by the loss of Season Four W-League Young Player of the Year Ashley Brown and veteran midfielder Louisa Bisby to ACL injuries in the same match.

Then came the international cavalry, led by Wales National team captain Jessica Fishlock, and including Swedish midfielder Petra Larsson and American striker Jessica McDonald. The impact of these three imports was undeniable as they added class, experience, steel and goals to a base of young local talent. The result was Melbourne going on a mid-season tear, overturning records and history to easily secure a third straight finals appearance.

Counterparts Sydney also started the season shakily with the loss of several key players through re-



Melbourne Victory will enjoy home ground advantage for this weekend's final. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

tirement (defender Thea Slatyer and midfielder Kylie Ledbrook), injury (Matildas Danielle Brogan and Leena Khamis suffered knee injuries) and the new kids on the block Western Sydney (Teigen Allen, Servet Uzunlar and Sarah Walsh).

But slowly and steadily long-time coach Alen Stajcic moulded his baby Blues (the squad average age is 19) into an exciting attacking machine. While they have an enviable contingent of internationals including Sam Kerr, Caitlin Foord, Kyah Simon, Anna Kennedy and Ellyse Perry, the key to Sydney's season form has been fringe Matildas Renee Rollason and Teresa Polias.

Sydney never quite got into a winning rhythm with big wins followed by disappointing draws and inexplicable losses. Despite the up and down nature of the their season, Sydney still played

exciting football and were good enough to win a pressure Round 12 match (and with a little help from their rivals Brisbane) to secure a five straight finals berth.

Apart from being city rivals, Melbourne and Sydney are a study in contrasts when it comes to their football. Melbourne's play is built on a stable back five (they had the best defensive record in the league) with a characteristic of their play a slow, measured and methodical build up. Dominant in possession, Victory's midfield (Larsson, Amy Jackson, Enza Barilla) have become expert in picking out their powerful strikers McDonald and Laura Spiranovic who have stepped up this season.

Sydney on the other hand are all about quick movement on and off the ball. Built around a pacy, skilful and mobile front six, the Sky Blues have created a formidable

attack with threats from the left (Kerr), right (Emma Kete) or down the centre (Simon). However they also have the ability to mix up the tempo of the match through Polias and Kennedy.

While a midfield battle is a given the class in the centre of the park, this contest will truly be about attack versus defence. Melbourne's attack have conceded the least number of goals this season (just 14) while Sydney's attack, led by Kerr, was the second most prolific.

Whether Melbourne secures their first W-League title or Sydney takes out their second Championship, this Sunday's match at AAMI Park is set to display the future of Australian football with the brilliant young talent on display in what should be a tense but exciting tussle.

Kiss of Death
Victory 2-1 Sydney FC

SFC CONFIDENT IT CAN OVERCOME LOSS OF ELLYSE PERRY AND EMMA KETE

Sydney FC W-League coach Alen Stajcic is confident the Sky Blues can overcome the loss of internationals Ellyse Perry and Emma Kete when they take on Melbourne Victory in the W-League grand final at AAMI Park on Sunday.

Perry will miss the decider due to her cricket commitments, which see the defender depart Australia on Friday for the ICC Cricket World Cup in India.

Kete, who has played 42 international for New Zealand, will miss the match after she was sent off in last weekend's thrilling 3-2 win over arch rivals Brisbane Roar.

While the absence of Perry and Kete is a blow for Sydney FC, Stajcic is certain the Sky Blues have the depth and talent to cover for the missing pair.

"The loss of Ellyse Perry and Emma Kete is a blow but we have a good squad with sufficient depth and talent to be able to cover for their absence in the grand final," Stajcic said. "Melbourne Victory is a tough team, especially playing them in Melbourne, but we have the quality and experience to be able to rise to the challenge, which is what playing in a grand final is all about."

"We will go down there on the back of two very good wins and with the self belief we can win on the road after we beat Brisbane away from home to make it into the grand final."

Stajcic also wished Perry and the Australian team luck in the ICC Cricket World Cup in India. "It's a shame Ellyse couldn't play

before departing for the (cricket) World Cup but we all know her situation in juggling both sports so she goes to the World Cup with our best wishes and we wish her and the Australian team the best of luck," Stajcic said.

"Ellyse has done well throughout the W-League season to manage her schedule for Sydney FC and NSW Cricket and like the rest of the girls in the team she has given Sydney FC everything all season."

The W-League grand final will take place at AAMI Park in Melbourne on Sunday afternoon and Sydney FC CEO Tony Pignata has asked Sky Blues fans travelling south for Saturday's A-League clash to support the W-League team on Sunday.

"It is a unique opportunity for the Sydney FC fans who had booked to go to Melbourne to watch the A-League team play Melbourne Victory to wait back in Melbourne and cheer home the W-League team on Sunday," Pignata said.



Ellyse Perry will miss the match due to international cricket commitments

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday January 27th
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am FIFA Futbol Mundial

Monday January 28th
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday January 28th
9:30 pm The World Game



FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY
npower League Two Round 19
Wimbledon v Port Vale 6:40am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 19 Preview Show
7:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY
Bundesliga Round 19 Dortmund v
Nuremberg 6:25am **LIVE**
Capital One Cup Semi-Final 2nd Leg
Highlights Show 12:50pm 1st Airing
Copa Libertadores First Stage 1st Leg
Highlights Show 6:40pm 1st Airing

SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY
Bundesliga Round 19 Augsburg v
Schalke 1:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 19 Freiburg v
Leverkusen 4:25am **LIVE**
Eredivisie Round 20 Heracles v PSV
6:40am **LIVE**
SPL Round 24 Dundee Utd v Ross
County 10:35am 1st Airing
SPL Round 24 Aberdeen v Hibernian
11:25pm **LIVE**

MONDAY 28TH JANUARY
Scottish League Cup Semi-Final St
Mirren v Celtic 1:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 19 Stuttgart v
Bayern 3:25am **LIVE**
Eredivisie Round 20 Vitesse v Ajax
5:40am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 19 Hamburg v Bre-
men 7:30am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 20 Feyenoord v
Twente 9:20am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 19 Highlights Show
7:00pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY
npower League Two Round 31 Exeter
v Toquay 6:40am **LIVE**
SPL Round 24 Highlights Show 7:30pm
1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 20 Highlights Show
8:00pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 31ST JANUARY
SPL Round 25 St Mirren v Inverness
6:40am **LIVE**
Copa Libertadores First Stage 2nd Leg
Gremio v Liga de Quito 10:55am **LIVE**

FRIDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
npower Championship Round 29
Leicester v Wolves 6:40am **LIVE**
SPL Round 25 Highlights Show 8:45am
1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 20 Preview Show
7:30pm 1st Airing



Sunday 27th January 2013
06:00 am Liverpool TV

Tuesday 29th January 2013
10:00 am Liverpool TV

Wednesday 30th January 2013
06:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) LFC's 100
Most Exciting Premier League Games



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to
kick-offs.

English Premier League

WEEK 24
Wed Jan 30 Aston Villa v Newcastle
6.38 am Fox 1
Wed Jan 30 Stoke v Wigan
6.38 am Viewers Choice
Wed Jan 30 QPR v Manchester City
6.38 am Fox 2
Wed Jan 30 Sunderland v Swansea
6.38 am Fox 3
Thu Jan 31 Arsenal v Liverpool
6.30 am Fox 1
Thu Jan 31 Everton v West Brom
6.38 am Viewers Choice
Thu Jan 31 Fulham v West Ham
6.53 am Viewers Choice
Thu Jan 31 Reading v Chelsea
6.53 am Viewers Choice
Thu Jan 31 Norwich v Tottenham
6.38 am Fox 2
Thu Jan 31 Manchester United v
Southampton
6.53 am Fox 3

Hyundai A-League
All games **LIVE**

Fri Jan 25 Mariners v Adelaide Utd
7.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Jan 26 Melb Victory v Sydney FC
5.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Jan 26 Wanderers v Melb Heart
7.45 pm Fox 1
Sat Jan 26 Perth Glory v Bris Roar
9.45 pm Fox 1
Sun Jan 27 Phoenix v Newcastle Jets
2.30 pm Fox 1

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Round 18: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Mariners (5) Adelaide (0) Draw (3) - Victory (5) Sydney FC (0) Draw (3) - Wanderers (7) Heart (0) Draw (1) - Glory (7) Roar (0) Draw (1) - Phoenix (2) Jets (2) Draw (4)

SANTO CILAURO
38

Mariners
Draw
Wanderers
Glory
Draw

Last week: 2

CRAIG MACKENZIE
37

Draw
Victory
Wanderers
Draw
Draw

Last week: 2

EDDIE KRNEVIC
34

Draw
Draw
Wanderers
Glory
Phoenix

Last week: 1

PETER KATHOLOS
32

Mariners
Draw
Wanderers
Perth
Draw

Last week: 2

ROGER SLEEMAN
43

Mariners
Victory
Wanderers
Glory
Newcastle

Last week: 3

ANDY HARPER
34

Mariners
Victory
Draw
Perth
Phoenix

Last week: 3

JOHN DOYLE
34

Mariners
Victory
Wanderers
Glory
Jets

Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH
40

Draw
Victory
Wanderers
Glory
Draw

Last week: 3

VPL COUNTDOWN

BRANDON GALGANO takes an insider's view into the lives of the Victorian Premier League clubs as they prepare for the upcoming 2013 season.

Club: South Melbourne FC
VPL Titles: 8
Last Title: 2006
Final Position Last Season: 6TH
Manager: Peter (Gus) Tsolakis

Football in this country is really thriving at the moment isn't it! With the new signing of Ales-sandro Del Piero at Sydney, growing crowd numbers and a world cup campaign which seems to finally be getting itself back on track you could be forgiven for forgetting that our own local domestic competition the Victorian Premier League is only a little over two months away from commencing and with this in mind us football patriots at Goal! Weekly will be preparing a weekly pre season summary on the goings of all Premier League clubs in anticipation of the big kick off on Friday the 6th of April 2013. This week our focus will be on arguably the largest and most successful club in Victorian football history, South Melbourne FC as they prepare to bounce back following a disappointing 2012 campaign. 2012 began with a bang for SMFC with the new and improved Lakeside stadium finally being completed, the appointment of club legend Gus Tsolakis as manager and various high profile signings such as Trent Rixon and the Trifiro brothers there was a sense of renewed optimism surrounding club members and supporters going into the 2012 season. After a fast start to the year, winning their first two matches including a resounding 3-1 victory against Oakleigh in round two it seemed that South were finally on the path to premier league glory in 2012 after six trophy less seasons at lakeside stadium, these hopes though were soon dashed following a mid season crisis and an appalling home record of just four wins in 12 matches saw SMFC once again miss out on the finals for the

New Faces At Lakeside



Alan Kearney: Former Everto-
nian from Southern Stars



Tyson Holmes: Prolific striker
in the QSL



Rhys Meredith: Brisbane
Premier League goal-getter

third straight season, a bitter blow for the club and their supporters after such a promising start to the campaign. Following the utter disappointment of the 2012 season SMFC have attempted firstly to apply some stability to the club as Manager Gus Tsolakis, despite a disappoint- ing 2012 has been retained as head coach going into the 2013 cam- paign. This is an important step for a club who has rotated through five managers in six seasons since their previous VPL triumph in 2006. The appointment of Mehmet Durak- ovic, another SMFC legend and ex Melbourne Victory manager, as Senior Technical director is also sure to provide some added depth in the coaching department following the dismissal of popular assistant coach Joe Montemurro following the 2012 campaign. The senior squad itself has only experienced minor changes with, following the signing of Jason Trfiro to WSW, his brother Glenn Trfiro also leaving the club to explore new ventures as well as young goal keeper Jason Saldaris and striker Steve Burton. In response to these losses South have signed promising striker Rhys Meredith from Brisbane premier

league club Redlands United whose 19 goal season in 2012 saw him offered a trial at WSW in preparation for the 2012/2013 A-League Season before ultimately signing a deal at SMFC in January 2013. Tyson Holmes is another Queen- slander to have inked a deal with SMFC. The former Sunshine Coast fire captain led his side to three championships and two premier- ships in five years at the club, whilst also picking up the QSL golden boot award in 2011 as well as the QSL MVP award on two oc- casions. The attacking midfielder is sure to be a vital cog in an SMFC side who will be looking for suc- cess in the 2013 season. South have also signed former Everton midfielder Alan Kearny from Southern Stars FC. The left sided midfielder is sure to add some much needed steel to the SMFC midfield to compliment the attacking talents of players such as Fernando and Joe Keenan. Finally ex-Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar midfielder Carl Recchia has returned to Lakeside Stadium following the relegation of his former club Moreland Zebras in 2012. Recchia picked up both the club best and fairest winner and golden boot award with 8

goals in 2012 and the versatile mid- fielder\ defender will look to build on his already rapturous reputation with SMFC supporters in 2013. **Players to watch out for in 2013:** Young attacking midfielder/ Striker Andrew Cartanos who is currently playing in the youth ranks at Melbourne Heart will be looking to build on his 5 appear- ances for South last season with the 18 year old midfielder set for a big season at lakeside stadium. 17 year old Winger/ Left Back Philip Petreski is another player who currently plays in the youth side for Melbourne Heart and will for sure look to establish himself this season following 8 senior ap- pearances for South Last season. It will for sure be an interesting season down at lakeside stadium in 2013. With a vast array of young talent coming through the ranks at the club as well as some key signings adding to the already experienced names such as Steven O'dor and Fernando De Moraes SMFC will be a club who will for sure be looking for glory in the up coming VPL season.

Stay tuned for more club reports regarding the up coming 2013 VPL season.

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The world according to Miron Bleiberg



MIRON Bleiberg is alive and well and his enthusiasm and passion for our football have not diminished.

Not by any means.

He says that the highlight of his past six months was being strongly linked with the Sydney FC job that was vacated by Ian Crook last November and filled by Frank Farina.

He also says that he understands why he didn't get the nod because "I'm not part of the boys club."

A noted vehicle for controversy, Bleiberg did much to spread the word and capture headlines and column space in an initially sceptical mainstream media at the outset of the A-League.

He still has plenty to say and says it in his inimitably blunt and forthright fashion.

"I'm not doing much right now but I still follow the A-League. People ring me up sometimes for my opinion but maybe I'm a dull subject right now. Maybe next season will be different," said Bleiberg.

Dull?

"There's always more supply than demand now in football especially in the coaching department.

"One way to get a job is to publicise yourself and the other way is to stab someone in the back - I'm not into either of them.

"From what I understand I was very close to getting the job at Sydney but the boys' club wanted Farina with all his Socceroo contacts - you know what I mean. I don't belong to that group.

"Look, good luck to him. He got the job ahead of me but later on I found out that I was one of the names put in front of the board.

"Then there was the opportunity with the Roar but because Rado (Vidosic) was the coach there I did not want to do anything to contribute to his demise and I thought it was better to stay away from it if you know what I mean."

Bleiberg thinks Farina's chances of staying with Sydney are slim irrespective of results.

"From my information the owner (David Traktovenko) wants to bring in a coach from overseas but for the time being I think other people convinced him that there was no point to bringing someone from overseas in the mid-season.

"My guess is that unless Farina will do a miracle then the owner will bring someone else in.

"Look, if Farina does bad then that's how it is, but if he does good then maybe he can get another job.

"From Farina's point of view it's just like any other coach - he has to succeed in what he's doing.

From Sydney's point of view there is no right or wrong here - they own the house so they decide how to renovate it.

"For me personally and from someone who lives in Australia I think it's unnecessary (an overseas coach) because there are enough good coaches here."

Talking about club ownership seemed to spark Bleiberg who then set his sights on Newcastle Jets' owner Nathan Tinkler and the off-field plight the Hunter Valley outfit finds itself in.

"It looks like industrially things go quiet for Tinkler and I suspect just like before when it happened with the Mariners that somehow FFA is quietly supporting the club.

"I think when Tinkler has to start selling his personal assets the last thing on his mind is to make sure that Gary van Egmond and his players get paid on time. That's just business logic.

"But no-one ever complains and there has been no delay in payments so I think if FFA needs that team in the A-League then maybe they can get money from Foxsports to help and if that is what is happening then there's nothing wrong with that."

The impact of private ownership on football is a controversial subject which is a perfect fit for Bleiberg. And he's up for it.

"In general, football clubs today can't survive without private ownership - it happens all over the world.

"If you want to achieve you must have private money. You can see this with AC Milan. If Berlusconi puts his money in they are first or second in the league. If he doesn't and they rely on TV money they are midtable.

"Obviously if owners put in their money they feel they have a say and coaches have to accept it - except Sir Alex Ferguson, of course.

"Mourinho left Chelsea because he was supposed to play Shevchenko and Ballack which he didn't want to do and Ancelotti received a present in the way of Torres turning up to training one day because the owner decided to buy him.

"It was a shock for people in Australia to hear of owners interfering in team selection but this will happen more and more because owners are successful businessmen who naturally feel that they can be successful in anything.

"Because they don't know much about football they listen to other people then they come to the coach and try to tell him what to do. That's just how their logic works.

"I would say from 10 years ago



Miron Bleiberg in his element. Seen here in charge of the now defunct Gold Coast United FC back in 2010 A-League season.

Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

and definitely from 20 years ago that the power and influence of the coach is greatly diminished."

And finally what is Bleiberg's view of today's A-League teams and how the season is panning out?

"The league is quite even and the table reflects that. I don't think there is any one team that is really outstanding.

"The last two seasons we had the Roar but that was a once in a generation combination. I mean what they achieved with 36 games without losing will not happen definitely in the next 10 years and probably not in the next 20 years. "People are saying that this is an outstanding season - Foxsports people and other people who make a living out of the league - but in my book there are more bad performances from teams than in years before.

"People talk about Western Sydney but in the first half last weekend against Brisbane Roar they were not even at the level of Oakleigh Cannons.

"I know the standard is improving but I can't agree with all this talk about an outstanding season. Instead of one outstanding team we have a few teams who are disappointing."

And with that our interview was over but rest assured we'll keep in touch with football's human headline whether or not he gets an A-League gig next season.

Got any scoops or stories?
Call us at GW HQ on
(03) 9551 7538 and
we'll call you right back.

FFA D-day for Dandy

DANDENONG Thunder will appear before the FFA appeals board in Sydney next Wednesday (30 January).

The Victorian Premier League champion, Grand Final winner and Statewide Cup holder is challenging the severity of penalties imposed by FFV for incidents that took place at the VPL Grand Final at AAMI Park last October.

As things stand Thunder has been fined \$45,000 and faces a seven-game lockout at home games next season. The financial impact of the penalties is claimed to be around \$250,000.

Sezar Jakupi, former president of the Albanian Australian Community Association, is Thunder's official spokesperson and has been guiding the club through the sport's judicial system.

He has received support from Zeni Krasniqi, general manager at Rip Curl subsidiary Ozmosis, a leading national surf retailer.

Krasniqi drew the club's attention to a FIFA judgment handed down late last year involving a 5000 Swiss francs penalty imposed upon Serbia for the "improper conduct" of its fans during a World Cup qualifier against Wales in September.

"I'm just bewildered at how the FFV can impose a \$45,000 fine ... on a community-based football club like Dandenong Thunder yet the governing body of world football FIFA issues the Serbian FA with a fine of only 5000 Swiss francs ..." said Krasniqi.



Bradford City's Curtis Good - set for Wembley next month.

"There is no justification for the irresponsible behaviour of one or two individuals at the Oakleigh v Thunder final and if blame is to be laid then the process to assess and adjudicate on the matter needs to be comprehensive, equitable, transparent and measured.

"This is clearly not the case here. The disparity between the fines imposed by FIFA and the FFV along with the fact that neither stadium management, security nor the FFV itself have been held accountable for any part of the improper crowd conduct that occurred at the 2012 VPL grand final clearly shows that the FFV is seeking to lay sole responsibility with Dandenong Thunder."

I contacted FFV earlier this week but the state body turned down the invitation to comment prior to the FFA judgment. FFV is likely to comment after the ruling as it did following its own tribunal and appeal hearings into the matter.

MacLaren looks north
JAMIE MacLaren was mulling over a loan move to Scotland as we went to press.

Dundee appears to be the front-runner for the services of the Blackburn Rovers striker but Hearts and St Mirren also are in the picture.

MacLaren's Blackburn contract runs out at the end of this season and he's keen to secure a new deal before joining the Young Socceroos for the World Under-20 finals in Turkey in June.

MacLaren is well known to Scottish clubs having played two

friendlies for Scotland's under-19s against Denmark in 2011 before finally attracting the attention of Australia.

The news is positive for his Young Socceroo teammate Jackson Irvine as Celtic has taken up the one-year option on his contract.

No doubt Irvine is aiming for a breakout 2013/14 season after making his senior league debut for the Glasgow giant last September coming on as a half-time sub at home against Hibs.

While Irvine and MacLaren were sorting out their immediate futures another Young Socceroo, Curtis Good, was part of Bradford City's historic League Cup semi-success over Premier League opponent Aston Villa this week.

Good signed a six-year deal with Geordie giant Newcastle last year but has been with the Bantams on loan for the past few months.

Bradford became the first fourth-tier side in over 50 years to reach the League Cup final and Good will stroll onto Wembley on 24 February to face Swansea in what surely will be the highlight of his developing career thus far.

Meanwhile Preston North End star Bailey Wright is still negotiating a new contract and has been told by the club that a deal should be sealed by the end of the month. Preston has also told Wright that he is seen as a future captain of the Deepdale outfit but given the vagaries of professional football let's see how things develop over the remaining few days of the transfer window.

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

The first English tour of Australia in 1925

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Ever since organised Association football began in Australia in the nineteenth century one of the aims of those playing and administering the game was to have an Australian team go on tour to the United Kingdom or have a team from there tour Australia.

Fund raising for such a tour began in the 1880s and the issue was on the agenda of state and national bodies until it finally happened in 1925. Distance, cost and the fact that a team would have to be away from the United Kingdom for several months ensured that it did not happen till then. In 1925 the Football Association in London sent a strong representative team to Australia which arrived at the beginning of May and played 25 games before leaving again in early August. Several of the matches were regarded as promotional exercises and even the internationals were deemed to be 'B' rather than 'A' games and hence are not included in the list of caps awarded to the Australian or English players who took part. This is a slight on members of both teams.

The tour began and ended in Perth and included matches against state teams and five test matches against Australia. England won all 25 games and scored 139 goals and conceded only 14. Sometimes the Australian opposition were lucky to get nil! The squad was not a full England eleven but it did include some excellent players. Tom Whittaker of Arsenal was a superb full back and later a long term and successful manager of the club. Stan Seymour had a similar career on and off the field with Newcastle United. The full list was: Harry Hardy (Stockport County), Teddy Davison (Sheffield Wednesday), goalkeepers; Cecil Poynton (Tottenham Hotspur), Tom Whittaker (Arsenal), Stan Charlton (Exeter City, full backs; Charlie Spencer (Newcastle United), Joe Hannah (Norwich City), Len Graham (Millwall), Bill Caesar (Dulwich Hamlet, but joined Fulham on his return to England), Jimmy Hamilton (Crystal Palace), half-backs; Stan Seymour (Newcastle United), Billy Sage and Jack Elkes (Tottenham Hotspur), Bert Batten (Plymouth Argyle, but joined Everton on return), forwards; and Ernie Simms (Stockport County), Charlie Hannaford (Clapton Orient, but joined Manchester United on return), Jimmy Walsh (Liverpool), utilities. The team was managed by John Lewis and Mark Frowde and M Atherton of Blackburn Rovers was the trainer.



Jack Elkes of England shoots for goal in the match against Western Australia at Fremantle Oval on 9 May 1925. The Western Australian players from the left are T Boyle, Richard Utting, the skipper, and Harold Boys. Source: Richard Kreider, Paddocks to Pitches, p. 453, courtesy of Harold Dale Boys.

Bill Caesar was the only amateur in the team, and some wag said that explained why he was able to get away on tour, but he joined Fulham on his return, though he only recorded one first team game. Bert Batten was Irish, the only non-English player in the squad, and he scored 47 or 49 goals on the tour (sources differ) and joined Everton when he got back to England. He too only managed a single first team appearance. But if these were marginal players in England, others, as noted above, went on to significant careers in the game. The closest Australia came to holding the English was in the test match at the Agricultural Showground in Sydney on 4 July. Australia had George Cartwright in goal, Frank Gallen, T Faulkner, Charlie O'Connor, A Edwards, Harry Spurway, Stan Bourke, Percy Lennard, J Smith, H J Sheringham and R McNaughton. W A Wright refereed. England won, but only by two goals to one. Ernie Simms opened for England and Stan Bourke equalised for Australia. It was one-all until Jack Elkes scored the winner. Both sides missed penalty kicks. Sheringham was injured and had to leave the field. The Australians had sought to be able to introduce substitutes but this was turned down by the English as being against the rules of the game as they stood at the time. The attendance was given as 26,000. Takings at the game of around £1,400 suggests there were a lot of freebies. However that sum brought the aggregate for the tour to that point to around £16,000, leaving only another £2,000 required to ensure a profit overall. Sir Harry Lauder, the Scottish music hall singer and comedian, was among the spectators.

The results in the other tests were more one-sided in favour of the tourists. In Brisbane on 27 June,

England won five-one, then eight-two in Maitland on 11 July, and five-nil in Sydney again on 18 July. The final test in Melbourne on 25 July was a two-nil win to the visitors. England was awarded three penalty kicks and missed two of them. Charlton scored with the second penalty after a foul by Aiken to put England ahead in the 25th minute. Batten scored the other England goal deep in the second half with a shot which slipped through keeper Robison's hands. Apart from that Robison and his full backs Mitchell and Aiken were excellent while Mas-

ters and O'Connor were the other Australians who stood out. The full Australian line-up was probably, S Robison, Mitchell, Aiken, Morrison, Eccles, Phillips, O'Connor, Judy Masters, A Edwards, Tom Thompson, R McNaughton. Harry Spurway was also mentioned in some reports. Australian teams in those days were selected by state officials and were seldom the strongest line-ups that could have taken part. Judy Masters, one of the stars of the Australian game between the wars, did not play in the Sydney July test for example, though he

did turn out in three of the other test matches. Faulkner was the only non-New South Wales player in the Australian line-up on 4 July, and while NSW was by far the strongest state at the time, it is hard to believe that there were no other players worthy of selection. The English manager, John Lewis, later criticised the Australians for bringing on substitutes and breaching the rules of amateurism by paying players £1 per day, a £5 bonus and compensation for time lost at work. He said he would report the Australian Soccer Association to the FA.



Judy Masters. Source: Sid Grant, Jack Pollard's Soccer Records, p. 173.



Stan Seymour playing for Newcastle United. Source: Paul Joannou, The Black and White Alphabet: A Complete Who's Who of Newcastle United, p. 364.

In the program for the match against West Australia on 9 May 1925 there were two pages devoted to "Off-side" Simplified". One wonders how long a full explanation might have gone on.

My thanks to Richard Kreider for assistance with this column.



1925 AUSTRALIAN XI (vs. England FA) Thebarton Oval, South Australia
Rear row: GA Childs (Ref), S Smith, HN Boys (WA), L Norman (Tas), E Pilgrim (SA), WA Gardner (WA), B Denman (SA), J Batt, W Bellis (Sec SA).
Front: J Mitchell (SA), L Honeysett (Tas), J Greaves (Vic), S Stoney (Mgr), J Gore (C-SA), J McQueen (SA), J Aiken (Vic).
Harold Boys and Walter Gardner were the first Western Australians to represent a senior Australian football team.

An Australian team against England at Thebarton Oval in South Australia in 1925. Players names on picture. Source: Richard Kreider, Paddocks to Pitches, p. 74.


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Pascoe Vale Maintains 6-Point Gap Over Rivals

The Nike V-League Premiership has returned for the second half of the season. Defending champions Pascoe Vale FC still have a comfortable six point lead over nearest rival Hume FC.

Round 12 Ashburton share points with the Vipers

Ashburton let a two goal lead slip as they share the spoils with Vipers. Ashburton started strongly and when goalkeeper Lorenzo De Paris opened the scoring with a rocket from inside his own half, Ashburton looked like they could run away with it. To Vipers credit they kept fighting and scored two goals from Ashburton mistakes to share the points.

Vic Vipers FC 2 (H. Tran 1, L. De Paris (OG)) **drew with** **Ashburton FC 2** (A. Farina, L. De Paris)

Pascoe Vale cruises to victory over winless Brighton

A five goal haul from Ernie Simsek was enough to get Pascoe Vale the points. Simsek scored hat-trick inside the opening minutes. Despite Pascoe Vale dominance goal of the match when to Brighton's Christian Saffo his sublime volley was a contender for goal of the season.

Pascoe Vale FC 10 (E. Simsek 5, J. Portillo 2, S. Soufi 2, T. Umeda) **def.** **Brighton FC 1** (C. Saffo)

Fitzroy FC too good for FC Prahran

In a match that was built up as the battle of the former NSL stars Vlado Zoric (Fitzroy) and Tansel Baser (Prahran), it was Zoric who got on the scoresheet and help guide his team to victory. Kesra Majbouri was the star for Fitzroy his two goals and two assists ensured Fitzroy would push for a top 4 finish.

Fitzroy FC 5 (K. Majbouri 2, P. Robotis, L. Erakovic, V. Zoric) **def.** **FC Prahran 3** (J. Knight 2, C. Mogoai)

Moreland back in the winner's circle

Prior to the Christmas break Moreland had lost four in a row, and the match against CF Brunswick they should great character to hold on and get an important 3 points. Brinswick will be disappointed not to get something from the match as they had opportunity's to get points from the game.

Moreland FC 6 (T. Sumbul 2, B. Koca, T. Korkmaz, S. Kul, B. Sahin) **def.** **CF Brunswick 5** (D. Marusic, N. Yao, D. Van Reyk, J. Slovacek, M. Barrigos)

Another Juso Julardzija hat-trick help guide Metro to victory

Juso Julardzija stars not for the first time this season as his performance inspired Metropolitan to import win



Pascoe Vale's Taka Umeda is congratulated by teammates Jose Portillo (L) and Sofiane Soufi (R) after his goal against FC Balwyn. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Metropolitan FC's Tomislav Grgic shows his frustration in the match against FC Prahran. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

over the dangerous FC Balwyn. Clinical finishing was the only difference in the match and Metro made their chances count and took the points.

Metropolitan FC 4 (J. Julardzija 3, A. Redzepovic) **def.** **FC Balwyn 2** (J. Berrios, S. Lamanda)

Hume put 8 past Essendon

Hume FC are scoring goals for fun at the minute. For the 5th time this season they have scored 8 or more goals in a game and this time it was

FC Essendon to face the free flowing Hume. Hume never really got out of first gear and Essendon has no real answers for the blistering Hume counter attacks.

Hume FC 8 (C. Munoz 2, N. Sahin, M. Vragoski, S. Cicek, F. Bozdogan, M. Tankir, (Own Goal B. Vanega) **def.** **FC Essendon 2** (T. Akturk, A. Ahmed)

Round 13 Pascoe Vale stay 6 points clear

Pascoe Vale FC continued their dominance of the Nike V-League with a convincing victory over FC Balwyn. Pascoe Vale welcomed back Daniel Fulton fresh from his FFA Nationals MVP and Golden Boot wins for ACT over the break. Jose Portillo, Sofiane Soufi and Fulton all scored doubles are they romped to the 3 points.

Pascoe Vale FC 8 (J. Portillo 2, S. Soufi 2, D. Fulton 2, T. Umeda, E. Simsek) **def.** **FC Balwyn 3** (M. McGough 2, E. Evans)

Moreland beat Essendon in 18 goal match

No team has conceded more goals than Moreland this season, so it was important when they attack they get results and tonight the best form of defence was attack and they put away 11 with Turan Sumbul and Burukhan Koca leading the way. Essendon had their chances but with only 5 players available they ran out of legs at the end of the match.

Moreland FC 11 (T. Sumbul 4, B. Koca 3, T. Kose, S. Korkmaz, O. Murat, B. Sahin) **def.** **FC Essendon 7** (J. Jiminez 3, A. Ahmed 2, T. Akturk 2)

Vipers lucky to get past spirited Brunswick

CF Brunswick let a 4 goal lead slip as Vic Vipers come from behind to take the points. CF Brunswick looked motivated and their high pressure caused the Vipers a lot of pressure early on. Adam Cooper was the key for Vipers his hat-trick and experience around the court guided Vipers to victory.

Vic Vipers FC 7 (A. Cooper 3, H. Tran 2, M. Avram, M. Barrigos (OG)) **def.** **CF Brunswick 5** (M. Barrigos, D. Van Reyk, J. Slovacek,

R. Roslan, N. Yaw)

Metropolitan keeps 3rd position with victory over Prahran
A polished Metropolitan FC was too good for FC Prahran to handle. Some clinical finishing from Tomislav Grgic and Alija Redzepovic was enough to guide Metro to back to back victories. FC Prahran did show signs of life through Josh Knight but Metro had all the answers.

Metropolitan FC 9 (T. Grgic 4, A. Redzepovic 3, E. Buzo, D. Redzepovic) **def.** **FC Prahran 4** (J. Knight, I. Kato, D. Vithoulkas, Tercan)

Ashburton win over Brighton
Ashburton win but are pushed all the way by Brighton FC. Brighton FC will surely go home thinking what do we have to do to win a match. Brighton played their best game of the season as Ashburton for the first time in a number of games looked unorganized and venerable at the back. Ashburton just had too many experience players and that was the difference in the end.

Ashburton FC 5 (A. Farina 2, M. Rocca 2, A. Arregin) **def.** **Brighton FC 3** (H. Shamon, C. Saffo, M. Shakir)

Hume slap Fitzroy
Hume FC was too hot for Fitzroy as they took the points. Hume started the match at a face pace and Fitzroy had no answers as Hume raced to an early lead, it was a lead that Fitzroy would not pull back as Hume dominated to take the points.

Hume FC 6 (S. Cicek 2, N. Sahin 2, V. Mazurskiy, R. Culculoglu) **def.** **Fitzroy FC 1** (M. Sessay)

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	13	12	1	0	105	48	+57	37
2 Hume FC	13	10	1	2	97	35	+62	31
3 Metropolitan FC	13	10	0	3	100	60	+40	30
4 Vic Vipers FC	13	8	3	2	67	49	+18	27
5 Moreland FC	13	8	0	5	70	93	-23	24
6 Ashburton FC	13	6	2	5	49	40	+9	20
7 Fitzroy FC	13	6	1	6	53	52	+1	19
8 CF Brunswick	13	4	0	9	55	73	-18	12
9 FC Balwyn	13	3	1	9	57	83	-26	10
10 FC Prahran	13	3	1	9	53	79	-26	10
11 FC Essendon	13	3	0	10	45	94	-49	9
12 Brighton FC	13	0	0	13	31	76	-43	0

Round 13 Clashes Friday January 18

- Pascoe Vale FC 8 - 3 FC Balwyn
- Fitzroy FC 1 - 6 Hume FC
- Brighton FC 3 - 5 Ashburton FC
- FC Essendon 7 - 11 Moreland FC
- CF Brunswick 5 - 7 Vic Vipers FC
- FC Prahran 4 - 9 Metropolitan FC

Round 14 Clashes Friday January 25

- 6:30 pm Vic Vipers FC VS FC Essendon
- 7:20 pm CF Brunswick VS Ashburton FC
- 8:10 pm Metropolitan FC VS Hume FC
- 9:00pm Pascoe Vale FC VS Prahran FC
- 9:50 pm Moreland FC VS Fitzroy FC
- 10:40pm Brighton FC VS FC Balwyn

Top Goal Scorers

1 Alija Redzepovic - Metropolitan FC	32
2 Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan FC	29
3 Ernie Simsek - Pascoe Vale FC	27
4 Vadim Mazurskiy - Hume FC	23
5 Burukhan Koca - Moreland FC	22

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital

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Victory Keeps The Heat on Central Coast Mariners

By Daniel Quinn

In Round 13 of the National Youth League (NYL) there were wins for the Victory, the Roar and the Wanderers, while Perth's resurgence continued and the Mariners got back on track.

The Brisbane Roar defeated the Newcastle Jets 3-2 in a mid-table clash at Goodwin Park on Saturday. Patrick Theodore opened the scoring with a fine individual goal powering through the Jets defence, before rounding Newcastle 'keeper Jack Duncan and slotting into an open net.

The Jets, however, through Bobby Russell equalized from a Kale Bradbery cutback.

But the Roar regained their lead four minutes after conceding as Alex Schiavo thumped home after the Jets failed to clear a corner. Joe Franze secured the important

three points firing home at the back post, after arriving late from Nick Fitzgerald's cross. Marko Jesic then added a late

consolidation for the Jets with a minute left, but a consolidation was all it was.

The Western Sydney Wanderers were too good for the Melbourne Heart with a 2-1 win at Epping Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

All three goals were scored in the first-half as each side hit the back of the net with a penalty apiece. Western Sydney Captain Yianni Perkatiss hit the opener on ten minutes after the impressive Nicholas Olsen was brought down in the box.

Dylan Macallister sent Aaron Liddell the wrong way with the equalizer after Stefan Mauk was bumped over, before Daniel Barac gave the Wanderers the lead just before the break with a lovely finish after running on the end of a brilliant Jacob Williams ball.



NYL action between Melbourne Heart and Western Sydney Wanderers played at Epping Stadium, Melbourne.
Photo: JIM WEBSTER / BREATHING FOOTBALL

After their smashing last weekend at the hands of the Victory, the Central Coast Mariners beat the AIS 2-1 on Sunday at the Glen Willow Regional Sports Stadium in Mudgee.

Daniel Bragg got the Mariners off to a great start with a perfectly taken free kick on 16 minutes, but two minutes before the break Marc Marino finished off a nice team move to equalize for the Institute. But the Central Coast came out of the blocks in the second-half and through Louis Bozanic slotted the winning goal. Meanwhile in Sydney, the Mel-

bourne Victory eased past Sydney FC with a 3-1 win at Cromer Park. A pacey Connor Pain run and cross set up Chris Cristaldo to comfortably open the scoring on just 15 minutes.

But the Sky Blues leveled the encounter five minutes later as Tom Slater, the son of former Soccerro Robbie, slotted past Victory 'keeper Phil Petrovski.

Aaron Calver, fresh off making three A-League appearances after recently turning seventeen, brought down Pain in the box on 33 minutes, which resulted in a

penalty for the visitors. Theo Markelis stepped up emphatically giving the Victory the lead with a drilled finish into the bottom corner.

Substitute Hernan Espindola then secured the victory simply tapping in, after John Buceto was denied by Sydney 'keeper Anthony Bouzanis. Perth were involved with plenty of goals again as the Glory beat Adelaide United 5-2 at Intiga Stadium on Sunday evening.

After defeating Newcastle 6-4 away from home the Glory started off very well with Chris Harold converting Adrian Zahra's neat

cross on just 12 minutes.

Zahra was involved in Perth's next goal too finding Japanese winger Ryo Nagai to simply finish shortly after the break, before Riley Woodcock drilled the third in after 51 minutes.

Jacob Melling cut the deficit to two as the midfielder fired in from the edge of the box just after the hour, before Dion Kirk made it 3-2 with eight minutes left.

The Glory, however, were strong enough to see out the result after late strikes from Ndumba Makeche and Borbor Sam.

Round 13 Results

Perth Glory 5 (Chris Harold 12, Ryo Nagai 48, Riley Woodcock 51, Borbor Sam 84, Ndumba Makeche 90)
Adelaide United 2 (Jacob Melling 66, Dion Kirk 82)

Sydney FC 1 (Slater 20m)
Melbourne Victory 3 (Cristaldo 15m, Markelis 33m, Espindola 82m)

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Daniel Bragg 17, Louis Bozanic 46)
Australian Institute of Sport 1 (Marc Marino 43)

Melbourne Heart 1 (Macallister 18pen)
Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (Perkatiss 10pen, Barac 42)

Brisbane Roar 3 (Theodore 19, Schiavo 39, Franze 77)
Newcastle Jets 2 (Russel 35, Jesic 89)

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 CC Mariners	13	10	0	3	31	21	10
2 Melbourne Victory	13	9	0	4	38	15	23
3 Melbourne Heart	13	7	1	5	24	17	7
4 Adelaide United	13	6	3	4	29	22	7
5 Brisbane Roar	13	6	2	5	28	24	4
6 Newcastle Jets	13	6	1	6	33	28	5
7 Perth Glory	13	6	1	6	34	30	4
8 Sydney FC	13	4	1	8	29	34	-5
9 WS Wanderers	13	3	4	6	15	32	-17
10 AIS	13	1	1	11	13	50	-37

Round 14 Fixtures

Saturday 26 January KO 10:30 AM
CC Mariners v Adelaide United
Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah

Saturday 26 January KO 3:00 PM
AIS v Newcastle Jets
AIS Athletics Track

Sunday 27 January KO 11:00 AM
Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart
SS Anderson Res, Port Melbourne

Sunday 27 January KO 3:00 PM
Western Sydney v Brisbane Roar
Cook Park, St Marys

Sunday 27 January KO 8:00 PM
Perth Glory v Sydney FC
Intiga Stadium, Inglewood

All KO times ae AEDT

Pennicott on lookout for Melbourne club



Jim Pennicot is looking for a new challenge on the mainland.

By Walter Pless

Jim Pennicott has just about done it all in Tasmanian football, so he is looking for a new challenge in Victoria.

The 19-year-old South Hobart defender has won three league titles with Tasmania's top side, as well as every other trophy on offer in the past three seasons.

He was named man-of-the-match in the 2011 State grand final, but as the game entered stoppage time, the studs of his borrowed boots stuck in the turf and he tore the ligaments in his left knee.

He had a knee reconstruction and sat out the 2012 season but has been back in training for some months now and is ready to play again.

Pennicott is moving to Melbourne on 4 February to pursue tertiary studies with a view to becoming a teacher.

He is excited to be coming to Victoria and is keen to continue his football career, having played in several friendlies for South Hobart against VPL clubs such as South Melbourne.

"My time with South Hobart was

very successful and we went unbeaten for a whole season," Pennicott said. "We won three league titles in a row.

"It was a very successful time for the club and there was a great group of people there and we had a great coach in Ken Morton.

"I'm now trying to broaden my horizons and see if I can play at a higher level.

"I'm moving to Melbourne firstly to study, and secondly to see if I can make it there as a footballer.

"Any club will be fine. I'm not really fussed, as long as I get an opportunity."

Pennicott will initially live in Footscray until he finds more permanent lodgings.

"I've played against VPL clubs and it's just another level and a different pace," Pennicott said.

"The quality is a lot better, obviously, because they're more professional and their touch is so good and the pace much faster.

"You've got to be super fit to compete with them as they're on another level compared to Tasmania." Pennicott may be contacted on 0448 402 304.

SHORT PASSES

Melbourne Heart FC captain Fred faces four weeks on the sidelines after suffering a quad strain in Heart's 2-0 win over Adelaide United last Friday night.

Fred sustained the injury in the 53rd minute of last night's match and was eventually replaced by Nick Kalmar in the 55th minute. The Brazilian has played 13 matches for the Heart this season.

Melbourne Heart FC's remaining 2012-13 season National Youth League fixtures will now be played at Epping Soccer Stadium, Epping.

The date and time of the fixtures will remain the same, namely:

- Round 16 vs. Australian Institute of Sport, Sunday 10 February at 3.00pm
- Round 18 vs. Sydney FC, Saturday 23 February at 3.00pm

Exciting news coming out Victorian State League club Cairnlea this week was the appointment of former Arsenal Coach Jamie Monteith as the new junior technical director. A quick Google search of Jaime will take you to the Arsenal web page and he's indeed the real deal! Part of Jaime's role is to implement the Aresnal system into the club particularly focusing on juniors from 8 to 12..

Beach Soccerroos Kick-Off World Cup Qualifiers with Opening Win

The Qantas Beach Soccerroos have defeated Oman 6-4 in their opening Group A match of the 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Asian Qualifiers played in Doha, Qatar.

Peter Crevani opened the scoring for the Qantas Beach Soccerroos in the 7th minute with a stunning overhead scissor kick from an acute angle.

Panny Nikas doubled the Qantas Beach Soccerroos lead two minute later from the penalty spot, before Oman pegged a goal back shortly afterwards and then equalised six minutes into the second period.

Some heroic goalkeeping by Simon Jaeger kept the Qantas Beach Soccerroos in the game and Jaeger was instrumental in helping Panny Nikas take the lead back late in the second period, but once again Oman equalised soon afterwards.

Early in the final period of play, Nikas restored the Qantas Beach Soccerroos lead when he made the most of an Omani defensive error to complete his hat-trick and then added his fourth shortly after to underline his stellar opening performance.

David Zdrilic sealed the match late when he added his name to the score sheet after working hard to round the Omani goalkeeper.

Oman reduced the deficit on the stroke of full time to round off the result. The win places the Qantas Beach Soccerroos second in the group after Afghanistan defeated host nation Qatar 7-3 in the other match.

The Qantas Beach Soccerroos will face Qatar in their next group match today (8:15pm local (4:15am AEDT)).

The top team from each group will progress to the semi final stage and the top three (3) nations from the tournament will progress to the 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Tahiti .

All Qantas Beach Soccerroos matches at the tournament can be viewed online live at www.footballaustralia.com.au or www.theworldgame.com.au

Santo, Sam & Ed Podcast

Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee are back in town with their own unique take on events of the week.

Their brief is simple - 7 days, 3 guys, no agenda.

Podcast available on iTunes

<http://itun.es/au/dOdQl.c>

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MORE DRAMA AT UNDER-20 TOURNAMENT



Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

With Brazil and Argentina knocked out of the first round stage en route to the FIFA U20 World Cup to be held in Turkey later this year, there is yet more news coming out of Argentina.

With summer friendlies taking shape across the continent, the Mexican Primera Division underway and most importantly the Copa Libertadores given its go-ahead with the preliminary rounds, as always there is simply too much content to cover.

The “ Sudamericano” however has made the headlines also for a player on Peru’s squad has left the tournament being accused of playing under a false identity.

The Ecuadorean Football Association told the Associated Press tat the Peruvian player identified as Max Barrios is actually an Ecuadorean named Juan Espinoza and aged 25 years of age.

A spokesman of the Ecuadorean FA says CONMEBOL, the governing body of South American football, has been asked to investigate the case.

As highlighted in last week’s edition, both Uruguay and Chile have caused upsets and have been the revelation so far in the qualifying tournament.

Chile lost to Paraguay 2-3 although made up for it with a convincing 4-1 win over Ecuador on Thursday. Uruguay beat Peru 3-1, with Colombia defeating Ecuador 2-1 leaving them for two losses but still with a mathematical chance of qualifying by winning all remaining games and reaching fourth spot. Peru drew with Paraguay 1-1.

Following Argentina’s elimination, the AFA President Julio Grondona, famously known for his political wrongdoings in the game blamed none other than his son Humberto for their exit.

Argentina was favourite, as usual, coming into the tournament displaying a poor tournament with just one win - the worst in its history for the age category.

“My son Humberto made all the decision, to appoint coach Marcelo Trobbiani. It is his responsibility. I cannot be involved in everything.”

The 81-year old declared in defence that his age meant he has made way for younger board members to make decisions as it is “time for them to act upon.”

The point is Argentina’s youth setup is now crying foul having left José Pekerman depart for the Colombia national team top job. It is fair to say that criticism will always pour for Argentina and Brazil as the dubbed



Juan Verzeri making sure his U-20 Uruguay squad does the job

“Generation ‘86” under World Cup-winning manager Carlos Bilardo have failed to blend in their knowledge and experience onto youngsters.

The other curiosity that must be highlighted is about Uruguay’s management and performance in the tournament.

Uruguay’s Under-20 side is coached by Juan Verzeri. If one looks back at the 2007 Under-20 South American tournament, no one would’ve minded too much that Edinson Cavani has been the fairy tale story for most of the current senior side playing careers. It was Verzeri who makes fans remember that it was Cavani in that 2007 Under-20 side that showed why he could play as the centre-forward to build upon for today.

In the senior squad, Tabárez opted for Suárez as his go-to guy as a reference up front, and fast-tracked him to the senior side shortly after playing in the 2007 Under-20 World Cup by incorporating him into the 2010 World Cup Qualifiers in late 2007. Cavani’s arrival on the other hand was delayed for about a year on the senior side.

Ferrin’s other major contribution was “discovering” Uruguay’s centre-back duo: Diego Lugano and Diego Godin, both playing as a centre-back duo when Uruguay faced England in a friendly. It took Tabárez a full eight months to come to the same conclusion, that Lugano works best with Godín and vice versa.

This partnership has survived to this day at international level, and it remains big shoes to fill especially for Sebastian Coates, who has proved himself in the last Copa América.

Just how much is an under-20 coach responsible for the devel-

opment of a coach onto the national side?

Following the tournament, Uruguay captain Diego Polenta is the one name on Verzeri’s squad which should have somehow found his way on the senior side by now. For whatever the reason, Tabárez has ignored Polenta’s talents.

Italy tried to poach him from Uruguay — to play in London’s Olympics last year but “El Maestro” did not play him in any match and has not considered too much of Polenta despite Lugano’s injury/lack of form woes in 2012 and now subsequent transfer to Málaga, to rediscover his form.

The “Sudamericano” event ends on February 4th, local AEST.

COPA LIBERTADORES PLAY-OFFS

Argentina’s Tigre got their Copa Libertadores campaign off to a good start with a 2-1 first-leg win over Venezuela’s Deportivo Anzoátegui.

In their first ever Libertadores match, Tigre went behind after 38 minutes when Jeremías Caggiano put Anzoátegui ahead.

But the home side fought back in the second half with a goal to Gabriel Peñalba in the 66th minute before Leandro Leguizamón scored the winner after 76 minutes.

The second leg will be played in Venezuela on January 30.

In the day’s other match, another Libertadores debutant, Mexico’s León, salvaged a 1-1 draw at home to Chile’s Deportes Iquique.

The opening goal came after four minutes when Rodrigo Díaz silenced the home crowd and gave the Chileans the advantage.

León however were not to be denied, levelling the tie through Nelson Maz with only two minutes to play sending their home fans into raptures. It salvaged the home side a point and kept its hopes of advancing into the group stage of the prestigious tournament. The evenly poised contest will continue on January 30 with the second leg to be played in Chile.

Copa Sudamericana holders Sao Paulo thrashed Bolivia’s Bolívar on Thursday while LDU Quito hosted Gremio with the scores unknown due to printing.

A LITTLE SAMBA FOR SCOLARI

And lastly, Brazil coach Luis Felipe Scolari has named Ronaldinho in his 20-man squad for his side’s friendly against England for next month’s FIFA friendly calendar date.

The 32-year-old last appeared for his country in February 2012, in a 2-1 friendly win over Bosnia and Herzegovina, but now has the chance of adding to his 94 international caps under new head coach Scolari.

Elsewhere, there are four Premier League-based representatives in the squad, with QPR goalkeeper Julio Cesar joining Chelsea trio David Luiz, Ramires and Oscar.

Still on the Samba-lovers, the country’s sports minister has predicted the country will have more than enough hotel rooms for the 2014 World Cup and will avoid a repeat of the price gouging that occurred ahead of last year’s U.N. conference in Rio de Janeiro.

Soccer’s governing body FIFA has raised concerns that Brazil

lacks the quantity and quality of hotel rooms it expects for host countries, but sports minister Aldo Rebelo said private investors were improving lodgings in the 12 venue cities.

“The concern of the private sector is different from that of some observers,” Rebelo told reporters on Wednesday. “They think there will be a surplus and that will result in a decline in prices.

“We are confident there will be a balance and will be watching so that tourists and journalists are not threatened with extortion,” he added.

The concerns over hotel rooms is particularly acute in far-flung venues like Manaus and Cuaba, cities located in the Amazon and Brazil’s remote farm belt. Last year, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke warned that the dearth of accommodation was so severe, some fans might have to fly in and out of cities before and after matches.

Brazil’s major tourist destination Rio is better served than most but the city has a history of late scrambles for decent accommodation during big events. The city has more than 20,000 hotel rooms but very few of them are ranked four or five star.

Authorities have discussed plans to host visitors on cruise ships in the city’s bay during the Olympics. Some investors are even refurbishing sex motels that normally sell rooms by the hour.

In addition to hotels, Brazil is also investing heavily to ensure that airports, public transport and stadiums are all ready in time for the upcoming events so the Confederations Cup and the World Cup itself can be run



Ronny making a comeback for the “Scratch”.

SudAmericano U20

Group A - Final Standings									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Chile	4	4	0	0	8	3	+5	12	
2 Colombia	4	2	0	2	10	5	+5	6	
3 Paraguay	4	2	0	2	9	6	+3	6	
4 Argentina	4	1	1	2	6	7	-1	4	
5 Bolivia	4	0	1	3	3	15	-12	1	

Paraguay 2 - 3 Chile
Colombia 6 - 0 Bolivia
Paraguay 5 - 1 Bolivia
Argentina 3 - 2 Colombia

Group B - Final Standings									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Peru	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7	
2 Uruguay	4	1	3	0	10	9	+1	6	
3 Ecuador	4	1	2	1	5	5	+0	5	
4 Venezuela	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4	
5 Brazil	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4	

Peru 1 - 0 Venezuela
Uruguay 2 - 2 Ecuador
Brazil 1 - 0 Venezuela
Ecuador 2 - 1 Peru
Uruguay 2 - 2 Venezuela
Brazil 0 - 2 Peru

Final Group - Current Standings									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Paraguay	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	
2 Uruguay	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3	
3 Chile	2	1	0	1	5	4	+1	3	
4 Colombia	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	
5 Peru	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1	
6 Ecuador	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0	

Chile 1 - 3 Paraguay
Peru 1 - 3 Uruguay
Colombia 2 - 1 Ecuador
Chile 4 - 1 Ecuador
Peru 1 - 1 Paraguay

Colombia v Uruguay
Chile v Uruguay
Peru v Colombia
Paraguay v Ecuador
Chile v Colombia

smoothly and ultimately be one big party.
Hasta luego!



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London Calling



By Samuel Collins

You're in charge of a football club. Your side has won just once in nineteen games, including a run of seven successive defeats. You only spent £5.3m in the summer, but you're six points off safety and form shows few signs of improving. Do you stick or twist? Sack the coach or back him?

This isn't the blueprint for Football Manager 2014, instead, it's the scenario Reading owner Anton Zingarevich found himself in on Boxing Day. Following a goalless draw at home to Swansea during the festive period, only a solitary goal kept the Royals ahead of bottom-placed Queens Park Rangers.

While a second clean sheet of the campaign was most welcome, the atmosphere was hardly celebratory. The statistics after the game were worrisome, too. 31% possession and just two shots on target.

A week earlier, Malian international Jimmy Kébé had launched a scathing attack on the club's hierarchy, claiming further investment during the summer transfer window ought to have been made. "We're a good Championship side trying to compete in the Premier League," the winger told reporters, "We're in big trouble." Who could argue with the 29-year old? Even the Reading manager agreed. Days later, Brian McDermott, in charge

Reading plots royal survival as form improves



Reading manager Brian McDermott knows how to get the most out of his limited resources.

of the Berkshire-based club since December 2009, admitted he was coaching a "small club punching above its weight in this league".

Come on, you would have pulled the plug, wouldn't you? A change of management, a spark, someone to revive the squad and improve the club's survival chances. Zingarevich is a man of few words when it comes to speaking with the media, but the Russian has consistently backed McDermott throughout the season.

The duo held positive talks after the extraordinary 7-5 cup defeat against Arsenal in October, while in November, Zingarevich's belief in his manager remained resolute. "Brian is the man for the job and I have total faith in him. He'll be here in January." And he is. Still there, and the owner's unaltered backing of the 51-year old is seem-

ingly paying off.

Since that draw with Swansea, Reading have won three of their four league games. Nine points of a possible twelve, ten points of a possible fifteen including the tie with the Welsh side. Up until the 82nd minute of the clash against West Brom just under two weeks ago, it looked like little had changed. McDermott watched on from the bench with his side 2-0 down. But goals from Kébé, Adam Le Fondre and then Pavel Pogrebnyak saw a certain loss turn into to an improbable victory.

Somewhat ironically, Kébé's goal - the first of three in the final eight minutes that Saturday afternoon - may turn out to be the catalyst that ensured survival. It's still early, of course. Many arduous fixtures lie ahead - Reading still have to visit Manchester United, Arsenal,

Stoke and Everton as well as host Chelsea and Manchester City - but it's a start.

The Royals have climbed up to 18th-place and now sit just a point off safety. And they're now only two points behind 16th-placed Newcastle following last weekend's unexpected win on Tyne-side. Despite falling behind to Yohan Cabaye's free-kick in the first half, substitute Le Fondre scored twice after the interval and ensured Reading's team bus was jubilant for the five-hour journey back down the A1.

"It was a fantastic win," an insouciant McDermott declared. His expression rarely changes. McDermott is a man who, whilst watching, you wouldn't be able to tell if his side had just won the league - like his Reading side did last season in the Championship -

or just lost a European cup final. Formerly the club's scout, before managing the under-19's and then the reserves, he knows Reading Football Club inside out.

He is respected by his peers too; Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger labelled him a "miracle worker" last year. With twenty minutes to go on Saturday, and with his team a goal down, McDermott showed his growing tactical competence at the highest-level. 4-5-1 became 4-4-2, the full-backs were pushed up, and striker Le Fondre's introduction changed the game.

"A couple of years ago he was playing for Rotherham," McDermott reminded journalists at St James's Park. 'ALF' cost the Royals just £350,000 in 2011, and eight goals in 21 Premier League appearances this season has seen McDermott claim that fee "wouldn't buy you his right sock now".

It's a sign of how far Reading have come since their last top-flight campaign in 2007-08. The eleven who started against Newcastle cost a measly £8.1m - two million less than the fee the Magpies paid for forward Papiss Cisse a year ago. "Throwing money at things doesn't guarantee success, there are plenty of examples of that."

Newcastle have responded to relegation fears by splashing out millions on several Frenchman in Ligue 1, McDermott has chosen to focus more on unity - "That's helped me more over the last three years."

Sometimes, it's better to stick than twist.

Booming Bundesliga posts record turnover

Bundesliga clubs have announced a record turnover of more than two billion euros, with a net income 7.2 percent greater than last season.

The total earnings for the clubs in the league was marked as 2.081 billion euros for last season, which was up from the 2010/11 number of 1.941 billion.

The Deutschland Football League (DFL) also announced that as many as 14 of the 18 teams in the division have enjoyed a profitable year.

"The foundations for this successful path are financial good sense as well as targeted investment in sporting efficiency and infrastructure," DFL chief executive Christian Seifert told reporters.

"The Bundesliga is well equipped to deal with the challenges ahead."

The figures were inflated by Bayern Munich's run to the Champions League final, which reportedly earned them 41.7 million euros.

Germany's second division also boasted an improvement of 7.4 percent with a turnover record of 384.5 million euros.

Bayern linked with Suarez

Pep Guardiola's appointment at Bayern Munich has sparked rumours linking a whole raft of the world's best players with a move to Bavaria.

Liverpool's Luis Suarez is apparently the target of a 40 million-pound bid from Bayern, while the likes of Isco, Neymar, Edin Dzeko and Edinson Cavani have also been linked with the Bundesliga leaders.

Malaga have loaned Uruguayan central defender Diego Lugano from Paris Saint-Germain until the end of the season.

Elsewhere, it has been reported Arsenal are still keen on signing Barcelona forward David Villa, Inter are considering a 15 million euro bid for Corinthians midfielder Paulinho and ex-Chelsea striker Didier Drogba could leave Shanghai Shenhua, with AC Milan and Juventus vying for his signature.



By Alex Milic

Croatia
The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) has announced that brothers Niko and Robert Kovac will take charge of the country's Under-21 side.

The former internationals succeed Ivan Susak, who led the team to a fourth-place finish in UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying Group 5, which concluded in September.

Davor Suker, president, HNS says, "This is an important moment for HNS. These are men who know what it means to wear the Croatia shirt and all young players can see an example in them. We all hope they will reach our expectations."

"We will do our best to make the players ready to follow our path," said Niko, who captained the full national team during an illustrious career in which he turned out as a midfielder for Hamburger SV, Bayer 04 Leverkusen and FC Bayern München. "



Dutch ace Wesley Sneijder arrives in Turkey from Inter Milan

Suker says, "I hope they will be the nation's pride and that we will have a good relationship with the senior national coach [gor Štimac."

The siblings have a great wealth of international experience, with Robert, a former Bayern, Juventus and Borussia Dortmund defender, winning 84 caps. Niko made one fewer appearance, but scored an impressive 14 goals. The role is Robert's first in a coaching capacity, while Niko has experience working as an assistant at FC Salzburg.

Turkey
Turkish giants Galatasaray have pulled off an impressive coup by signing Dutch international playmaker Wesley Sneijder from FC Internazionale Milano for a fee in the region of €7.5m.

Sneijder's move ends an association with Inter that began in 2009 following his switch from Real Madrid CF. The 28-year-old, who has been capped 90

times by his country and has featured in five major international tournaments, he has agreed a three-and-a-half-year contract with Cim Bom.

Sneijder says, "I realised how big the Galatasaray community is after arriving at the airport. I am very happy and proud that I will play for such a big club. I am in good shape and if the coach picks me I want to play in the derby against Beşiktaş [on Sunday]. Also, it's a real honour to be compared to a leg-

endary player like [Gheorghe] Hagi. I know how important his name is at Galatasaray. He was a legend and I have come here to be a legend."

A product of AFC Ajax's well renowned academy, Sneijder went on to score 43 goals in 126 Eredivisie appearances for the Amsterdam club. A €27m transfer to Madrid followed in 2007, and he won the Liga title in the first of his two seasons in the Spanish capital. Sneijder's crowning moment would come with the Nerazzurri, though, scoring twice in the latter stages of the UEFA Champions League en route to Inter's final victory against FC Bayern München in 2010.

Galatasaray face FC Schalke 04 in the UEFA Champions League round of 16, with the first leg in Istanbul on 20 February and the return in Germany on 12 March.

Pictures went around the world following the midfielders arrival in Turkey a league which has now become known around the world for signing some of the best players around, with Sneijder however they have finally managed to bring a player still at his peak to the Turkish League.

Greece
Greek champions Olympiacos FC have dismissed coach Leonardo Jardim, with his assistant Antonis Nikopolidis taking temporary charge for the Greek Super League match at home to PAS Giannina FC on Sunday.

Jardim, formerly of SC Braga, filled the vacancy left by Ernesto Valverde in June, but has lasted just six months of his two-year contract. Nikopolidis inherits a side unbeaten in the league and ten points clear of PAOK FC at the summit.

One of the heroes of Greece's unexpected UEFA EURO 2004 triumph, former goalkeeper Nikopolidis retired 18 months ago and is poised to make his coaching debut.

Olympiacos, who finished third behind FC Schalke 04 and Arsenal FC in UEFA Champions League Group B, face Levante UD in the UEFA Europa League round of 32 on 14 and 21 February. Should they progress, a last-16 tie against either Club Atlético de Madrid or FC Rubin Kazan awaits.

It is believed Dusan Bajevic is the hot favourite to return to the red and whites while club legend Predrag Djordjevic has also been mentioned as a possible replacement.

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as roma



EPL
Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

A Quick Round-Up of the EPL ...

Here's a spit-fire round up of EPL action (apologises to the teams who couldn't make it)...

Win, lose or draw, Chelsea fans want the Rafael Benitez out of the club. Which he probably will be, with Roman Abramovich's top coaching target Pep Guardiola deciding against going to London, opting for Munich instead. Which is bad news for Chelsea, but not as bad as...

Arsenal's first half performance, which was so poor, that the words "disgusting, disgraceful, horrendous" are all synonymous to that first 45 minutes. Failing to make the Top Four could be good thing: finish fifth, force the club to spend money, get rid of Wenger, it could help spark something fresh in London...

But not as fresh as Andre Villas-Boas' Tottenham. This time last year, they had eight points more, but there is sense that more progression has been made with the Portuguese in charge. Fresher ideas, better contributions from players: things are going nicely at the White Hart Lane. They even played Manchester United off the park...

But, that's not how Sir Alex Ferguson saw it. No, it was the official's fault; who failed to give a penalty to the Red Devils. This is the same team, that three days before got awarded a dubious penalty, avoided a clear-cut one, and knocked West



Man City's David Silva scores twice to keep the EPL chase alive.

Ham out of the FA Cup because of it. United were lucky to avoid defeat...

Unlike their rivals City, who put in a commanding performance for once. This was mainly thanks to David Silva who scored two and proves once again that he's City's most dangerous player, regardless if he only cost a mere £24 million, cheaper than Nasri, Tevez, Aguero, Balotelli, Dzeko, Milner. But he's still more expensive....

Than Dimitar Berbatov, Fulham's Plan A, B and C. So much so, that the man himself, let the world see his undershirt with the words "Keep Calm and Pass It to Me". Which might be problem for manager Martin Jol, as that he's only Plan A, B and C. At least he is still in the job...

Unlike Nigel Atkins. Southampton sacked the man who got them promoted twice and out of the relegation zone. Die-hard fans are planning a protest against the decision. That's bad news for new manager Mauricio Pochettino, who wasn't as surprised to get the job than...

Everton's David Moyes, who was "very surprised" by the sacking. His side was Pochettino's official game in charge and it ended 0-0.

Which keeps Everton in the hunt for the Champions League spot. Just like their bitter and most hated rivals...

Liverpool, who are on a roll for once. Their 5-0 thrashing of Norwich was their best performance this season, full of confidence and drive. And that's with Luis Suarez letting new striker Daniel Sturridge score some goals...

Which is exactly what Norwich want. They've bid for a host of strikers during the transfer window according to Chris Hughton. One of them won't be...

Frenchman Loic Remy who joined QPR, not because of the £110,000 per week wage, but rather the challenge of the League. Which is why he rejected moving to...

Newcastle, who sold Demba Ba to Chelsea, because Chelsea got money by selling Sturridge to Liverpool, leaving Newcastle wanting a striker, in particularly Remy, but he didn't feel like being a in relegation battle....Oh wait...funny how things go around don't they?

FA Cup 4th Round Preview
Yes that's right, we gone full circle. And now it's the Fourth Round of the FA Cup. Which

ENGLAND EPL



Last 5 games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	23	18	2	3	57	30	+27	56	D W W W W
2 Manchester City	23	15	6	2	45	19	+26	51	W W W W L
3 Chelsea	23	13	6	4	47	22	+25	45	W D W L W
4 Tottenham Hotspur	23	12	5	6	40	28	+12	41	D D W W W
5 Everton	23	9	11	3	35	26	+9	38	D D W L W
6 Arsenal	23	10	7	6	46	27	+19	37	W L D W
7 Liverpool	23	9	7	7	40	28	+12	34	W L W W L
8 West Bromwich ...	23	10	4	9	33	32	+1	34	D L L L W
9 Swansea City	23	8	9	6	34	27	+7	33	W D D W D
10 Stoke City	23	6	11	6	22	27	-5	29	L L D W
11 Sunderland	23	7	7	9	27	31	-4	28	W W L L W
12 West Ham United	23	7	6	10	26	33	-7	27	L D L W L
13 Norwich City	23	6	8	9	24	39	-15	26	L D L L L
14 Fulham	23	6	7	10	33	40	-7	25	L D W L D
15 Southampton	23	5	8	10	30	40	-10	23	D D W D D
16 Newcastle United	23	5	6	12	28	41	-13	21	L D L L L
17 Aston Villa	23	4	8	11	19	44	-25	20	D L D L L
18 Reading	23	4	7	12	28	43	-15	19	W W L W D
19 Wigan Athletic	23	5	4	14	25	43	-18	19	L D L W L
20 Queens Park Ra...	23	2	9	12	18	37	-19	15	D D W L L

means, including this week-end's round of matches, there are only four more games left for two teams to make a booking at Wembley in late May.

Just like last round, we've got a host of Premier League clashes that have spiced up the round (admit all the Premier League versus lower leagues games).

We start with the cream of the crop of English football: the Manchester duo. City will travel to Stoke City, a place they really hate, considering they last won at the Britannia Stadium 14 years ago in 1999 when both teams were in League Two.

As for United, they welcome Fulham to Old Trafford. This is the second consecutive round in which Sir Alex's side has faced Premier League opposition. However, they look an unbreakable force at home.

There are those sides lucky enough to draw lower league opposition, might think they have easy ride to the next round, but the list of shocks so far this season (Arsenal losing to Bradford in the League Cup, Aston Villa again to Bradford, Newcastle falling to Brighton & Hove Albion) means that the big boys better watch out.

Arsenal especially, is a side in rough patch of form and are really struggled to put consistent performances in. With the memory of that loss to Bradford, Brighton & Hove Albion will be no easy challenge.

Chelsea will travel to Griffin Park to take on lowly boys Brentford. This will happen after they play their second leg of their League Cup semi-final against Swansea. The Blues are trailing by two goals, after the first leg and it will be interesting to see if they can bounce back. At the same time, failure in the Cup will pile up the pressure (which is already pretty high) on Rafael Benitez. Failure against Brentford will be unforgiveable.

Liverpool also travels away to face Oldham Athletic and will be looking to continue their rich form, after finally showing they understand Brendan Rodgers' style. But if there's one danger game that stands out, that's Tottenham's clash with Leeds United. Leeds is a decent team and with Tottenham in fine form, a shock might not a surprise, considering that's when "shocks" tend to happen.

Norwich welcome Luton Town, looking to end their poor run of

form (five losses in six games). Aston Villa will be hoping to end their nightmare start to the year, which as seen them enter a relegation battle and drop out of the League Cup semi-finals, when they face off against Millwall.

Which brings us to the Premier League' relegation battlers, who will be looking to the FA Cup to spark some excitement in their miserable seasons. Luckily, they have all been drawn with lower-league teams. QPR take on Milton Keynes Dons at Loftus Road, while Wigan Athletic travel to Macclesfield Town hoping to continue their run in the cup. While Reading welcome Championship side Sheffield United

Other matches include: Middlesbrough welcoming Aldershot Town to the Riverside; Huddersfield Town inviting Leicester City over; a battle between Championship sides, Derby County and Blackburn Rovers. And finally, Hull City welcome Barsley over at the KC Stadium.

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website <http://thetrequartista.com>

Saints and Sinners In English Managerial Madness



London Eye



By Robert Davis

Hiring and firing is not an English football tradition. For years, Premier League and Football League fans have always been able to turn their nose up at those across Europe, who's constant change of managerial reigns lacked the loyalty that has been so accustomed with football in England for so long.

The word loyalty is thrown around a lot these days, but the sacking of Southampton's Nigel Adkins during the week proves loyalty sure comes cheap in football. Dedication to a manager was something English football could be proud of and with Sir Alex Ferguson nearing the end of his 300 years in charge at Manchester United, the times where we could roll him out as an example to the rest are all but over.

Adkins, the man who took over the South-coast side when they were occupying a relegation spot in League One, the man who gained back-to-back promotions with the Saints to reach the Premier League, and the man who started to string results together in recent weeks, dragging his side away from the relegation zone, having only lost



Out: Nigel Adkins

two of the past twelve games. His replacement, although very highly thought of by those who have worked with him and in the Spanish media, is Argentinian Mauricio Pochettino (previously only known amongst the majority of the British Isles for bringing down Michael Owen to hand England a penalty in the 2002 World Cup). Pochettino, the man who speaks barely any English, the man who lost his job at Espanyol in November with the Catalan side bottom of the league, the man who, well, that's about it in terms of his managerial career. It's the unfortunate realism though that a good, young English manager has inexplicably lost his job to an up and coming Argentinian manager who now has the job of keeping Southampton in the

Premier League. The desire for young English managers has been apparent ever since Sven Goran Eriksson was put in charge of the national side. The recent pool to choose from consisted of the appointed Roy Hodgson, Harry Redknapp and Alan Pardew, the latter the only of the three candidates below the age of 65. Pochettino's appointment was, in the words of Saints Italian chairman Nicola Cortese; 'made with the long-term ambitions of Southampton Football Club in mind.' Perhaps Cortese knows something we don't about the 40-year-old, but if the newly-promoted side do slide back into the Championship come the end of the season, many serious questions will have to be answered.



In: Mauricio Pochettino

This isn't the first time a manager has been unfairly dismissed in recent years though, and it's unfair to pin down owners from overseas as the overall problem. Tottenham Hotspur chairmen Daniel Levy rid the services of the aforementioned Redknapp, who had guided the North London club through arguably their best spell in the Premier League. Replaced by the younger, more tactically aware Andre Villas Boas, the dismissal still raised eyebrows considering Redknapp's popularity amongst the players and the fans. Roberto Di Matteo was next to leave just under half way through the Premier League season with Chelsea. Once again, popular with the Stam-

ford Bridge faithful and holding a fantastic relationship with his players, he won the competition that owner Roman Abramovich so desperately wanted to win in the Champions League, yet still wasn't allowed to take charge up to the end of November. It appears a new superiority complex has entered into the game, one where owners don't take over a team for the affection they hold towards that particular club, but merely to flex their financial and egotistical muscle. They may well love the game of football, but the lack of a connection between the clubs they buy and the English game means they bring unwanted traits into the Premier League. To put such foreign policy into perspective, the current longest serving manager in La Liga is

Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid (an occupation previously held by, strangely, Pochettino at Espanyol) at a lengthy two and-a-half years. Whilst the longest serving manager in Serie A is currently Napoli's Walter Mazzarri, who passed the three year mark in charge during October of last year. To put Mazzarri's 'achievement' (and believe me, to be in a managers job for over three years in Italian football is an achievement), Roberto Mancini was put in charge of Manchester City a mere two months after Mazzarri's appointment at Napoli. It would be a disappointing decline to witness in the Premier League if yet another typically English aspect of the game is lost in the modern era. Dedication and loyalty towards management is something this country has been proud of in comparison to their fellow European leagues. Yet with only four managers left in the top flight that have been with their clubs for more than five years, it will be hard to see this tradition continue. It is important for fans to continue to be surprised and shocked with managerial dismissals throughout the Premier League and Football League. The affect it could have once accepted would not only be harmful for what's left of the traditional English game, but would be hugely detrimental to young English managers attempting to make a name for themselves.



Wrap
Italia

By Luca Cetta

Order restored as Juve's challengers falter

The weekend's marquee matches both ended in 1-1 draws, as Fiorentina, Napoli, Roma and Inter dropped further from the top. Lazio also slipped-up, but Juventus returned to winning ways by thumping Udinese.

Consecutive losses to start 2013 weren't exactly part of the plan for Vincenzo Montella's Fiorentina. The campaign's biggest revelation, the Viola had transformed from basket cases in 2011-12 to genuine European contenders. Last season's defining image was of Delio Rossi punching his own player, Adem Ljajic, and signified the instability rocking the club since Cesare Prandelli left for the Italian side in 2010.

Along with the introduction of a vibrant, young tactician in Montella, Fiorentina kept Stevan Jovetic and signed a number of exciting players. They morphed into a genuine ball-playing side, with Borja Valero, David Pizarro, Alberto Aquilani and Mati Fernandez aiding the cause. But in following a shock loss to Pescara with defeat at Udinese – as well as a Coppa Italia reverse to Roma in midweek – facing Napoli at the Stadio Artemio Franchi would prove the mettle of



The former Man Utd starlet Paul Pogba scored one of the goals of the season and added a second long-range stunner as Juve thrashed Udinese 4-0

Montella and his charges.

The Neapolitans were buoyed by their two point penalty being wiped out. Punishment against the club for 'objective responsibility' in the Matteo Gianello attempted fix case was dropped. Paolo Cannavaro and Gianluca Grava were also cleared of any wrongdoing. Gianello was deemed unreliable. And while Fiorentina had faltered, Napoli were in form after big wins over Roma and Palermo.

It had the hallmarks of a classic. Both sides were looking to force the issue, with the hosts also aware of Napoli's prowess on the counter. The opening goal arrived not from a deft Viola passing move, but quite the opposite. Defender Facundo Roncaglia was just as surprised as everybody to find the back of the net. His long ball from the halfway line aimed for Luca Toni was totally misjudged by Napoli goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis - he overran the ball and it entered an unguarded net.

Yet as he had done 99 times before, Edinson Cavani was there to terrorise. A whipped free kick met the Uruguayan's head, beating custodian Neto for his 100th Serie A strike. The weather took a turn for the worst in the second half and the Viola were visibly tired. However, both sides had a glorious chance to win it. Goran Pandev's header was parried by an acrobatic Neto, while Aquilani fired over in the last minute when free on the edge of the penalty area.

Walter Mazzarri felt Napoli deserved more than a point, but Montella was happy considering their exertion days before. "The team is doing very well, but I think it's evident we can grow a great deal. You cannot do everything in a year, but this is a start." In Sunday's late match Roma and Inter were unable to be separated. The Nerazzurri travelled to the capital without strikers Antonio Cassano and Diego Milito -

ITALY Serie A											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Juventus	21	15	3	3	45	14	+31	48	WDLWW		
2 Napoli	21	13	4	4	41	19	+22	43	DWWWL		
3 Lazio	21	13	4	4	32	21	+11	43	DWWWW		
4 Internazionale	21	12	3	6	33	23	+10	39	DWLDL		
5 Fiorentina	21	10	6	5	38	25	+13	36	DLLWW		
6 Milan	21	10	4	7	38	28	+10	34	WDWLW		
7 Roma	21	10	3	8	44	35	+9	33	DLLWL		
8 Catania	21	9	5	7	29	27	+2	32	WWDLW		
9 Parma	21	8	7	6	29	27	+2	31	DDWWW		
10 Udinese	21	7	9	5	32	31	+1	30	LWWDD		
11 Torino	21	6	9	6	25	24	+1	26	WWDWD		
12 Chievo	21	7	4	10	22	34	-12	25	DLWLW		
13 Atalanta	21	7	4	10	19	31	-12	23	DLDDL		
14 Bologna	21	6	3	12	26	28	-2	21	LWLLW		
15 Sampdoria	21	6	4	11	22	29	-7	21	LDWLL		
16 Pescara	21	6	2	13	17	39	-22	20	LLWWL		
17 Cagliari	21	5	5	11	20	37	-17	20	DWLLL		
18 Genoa	21	4	5	12	21	34	-13	17	LLWDD		
19 Palermo	21	3	7	11	18	34	-16	16	DLLLD		
20 Siena	21	5	5	11	20	31	-11	14	WLLLL		

amongst several others - while Daniele De Rossi and Francesco Totti returned for Roma. Both went to extra time in the Coppa Italia and triumphed to book their spot against one another in the semi-finals.

Michael Bradley earned a penalty after 20 minutes despite not being touched by Andrea Ranocchia. Totti thumped home the spot-kick. Young Inter striker Marko Livaja started for the first time and smacked the post shortly after. On the stroke of half time Rodrigo Palacio turned home a Fredy Guarin cross to earn the depleted Nerazzurri a share of the spoils. Lazio failed to put additional pressure on Juventus, drawing 2-2 at struggling Palermo. Sergio Floccari flicked in the opener with his head but was denied a second by an incorrect offside decision. Arevalo Rios and Paulo Dybala scored within 60 seconds of each other to put Palermo ahead, however Hernanes earned a shell-shocked

Latest Results	This Week
Palermo 2 - 2 Lazio	Lazio v Chievo
Juventus 4 - 0 Udinese	Juventus v Genoa
Fiorentina 1 - 1 Napoli	Bologna v Roma
Milan 2 - 1 Bologna	Catania v Fiorentina
Genoa 0 - 2 Catania	Atalanta v Milan
Chievo 1 - 1 Parma	Parma v Napoli
Siena 1 - 0 Sampdoria	Cagliari v Palermo
Pescara 0 - 2 Torino	Sampdoria v Pescara
Atalanta 1 - 1 Cagliari	Udinese v Siena
Roma 1 - 1 Inter	Inter v Torino

One To Watch This Weekend...

Vincenzo Montella faces his past when Fiorentina travel to Catania. The Sicilians are just four points behind the fifth-placed Viola, and thus four points from a European spot.



Viva
Espana

By Pepe Lopez

First Signs of Barcelona Fatigue

In less than one week after FC Barcelona extended their La Liga lead over current Spanish Champions Real Madrid to 18 points and 2nd placed Atletico Madrid to 11 points, Barcelona lost just their first match in 20 league matches this season.

The loss came at San Sebastian's Anoeta Stadium against Real Sociedad, ironically a venue that Barcelona has not won at, in the past for 3 seasons. Both Madrid clubs capitalised on Barca's loss, Real Madrid defeated Valencia 5-0 away from home, whilst Atletico Madrid defeated the other Valencian based club Levante 2-0 at home.

FC Barcelona raced away to a 2-0 lead after just 25 minutes with goals from Leo Messi and Pedro, however Gonzalo Castro equalised with goals either side of the half time break, before Imanol Agirretxe scored a late injury time winner for the home side, by volleying in a long speculative ball deep into the Barcelona penalty box.

Tito Vilanova had this to say after the loss to Real Sociedad, clearly



Barcelona leads a 2-0 lead slip at Real Sociedad and suffers its first defeat after 20 matches in the chase for La Liga.

upset with Gerard Pique's second half sending off; "Even if his sending-off was for a clear foul, there must have been 200 other cases similar to his tonight. I don't have to add more. At half-time, I told Pique to be careful, as his next foul would most likely result in a second caution."

"Credit to Real Sociedad. Their win is more due to their merit, rather than us not playing well. I have nothing to reproach the players for."

Such was the joy in San Sebastian at their team being the first to defeat Barcelona this season, that in honour of Real Sociedad's victory, the Town Hall invited the club president, coach and players to the lowering of the flag from the balcony on the San Sebastian Feast Day.

SPAIN La Liga											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Barcelona	20	18	1	1	66	23	+43	55	LWWWW		
2 Atlético Madrid	20	15	2	3	42	18	+24	47	WWDWL		
3 Real Madrid	20	12	4	4	50	20	+30	40	WDWLD		
4 Real Betis	20	11	2	7	31	30	+1	35	DWWLW		
5 Málaga	20	9	5	6	30	17	+13	32	DLLWW		
6 Rayo Vallecano	20	10	1	9	27	36	-9	31	LWWWW		
7 Valencia	20	9	3	8	27	32	-5	30	LWWWL		
8 Levante	20	9	3	8	24	29	-5	30	LLWLW		
9 Real Sociedad	20	8	5	7	31	27	+4	29	WDLWD		
10 Real Valladolid	20	8	4	8	29	25	+4	28	WWLLD		
11 Getafe	20	7	5	8	25	31	-6	26	DDLDD		
12 Sevilla	20	6	5	9	24	29	-5	23	DLWLL		
13 Real Zaragoza	20	7	1	12	21	30	-9	22	LLLWL		
14 Athletic Club	20	6	4	10	24	40	-16	22	DLLLW		
15 Espanyol	20	5	6	9	23	32	-9	21	WWLWD		
16 Granada	20	5	5	10	18	29	-11	20	WDLWD		
17 Celta de Vigo	20	5	4	11	20	25	-5	19	DLWLL		
18 Osasuna	20	4	6	10	16	21	-5	18	WDLLD		
19 Mallorca	20	4	5	11	20	36	-16	17	LLDWL		
20 Deportivo La C...	20	3	7	10	24	42	-18	16	LDWLD		

back to coach's bench after surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his mouth. Some more disappointing news for Barca's fans was received this week when their goalkeeper Victor Valdes announced his intent not to renew his contract with the Catalan club, in preference for a possible move to the English Premier League.

Mourinho up for Ferguson duel

Jose Mourinho is relishing the chance to lock horns with Sir Alex Ferguson when Real Madrid face Manchester United in the Champions League.

United travel to Santiago Bernabeu on February 13 for the first leg of the their last-16 clash as the veteran managers meet for the 15th time.

Latest Results	This Week
Espanyol 3 - 2 Mallorca	Celta de Vigo v Real Sociedad
Granada 2 - 0 Rayo Vallecano	Levante v Real Valladolid
Real Sociedad 3 - 2 Barcelona	R Zaragoza v Espanyol
Getafe 1 - 1 Sevilla	Deportivo v Valencia
Málaga 1 - 1 Celta Vigo	Real Madrid v Getafe
Osasuna 2 - 1 Deportivo	Rayo Vallecano v Real Betis
R Valladolid 2 - 0 R Zaragoza	Barcelona v Osasuna
Atlético Madrid 2 - 0 Levante	Athletic v Atlético Madrid
Valencia 0 - 5 Real Madrid	Mallorca v Málaga
Real Betis 1 - 1 Athletic Club	Sevilla v Granada

One To Watch This Weekend...

Atletico Madrid travel to the Basque Region's city of Bilbao to tackle sister club Athletic Bilbao at San Mames Stadium.

The Atletico Madrid football club's founders were originally from the Basque region and the two clubs actually shared players as they participated in separate Spanish regional competitions at different times of the season, in the early 1900's.

as Chelsea boss in 2007, and has again reiterated this desire.

And the 49-year-old admitted he was close to taking charge of England in 2008, but his commitment to Portugal saw him back away from the opportunity.

He continued: "One day, I want to return to England. I spent only three and a half years and I want to go back. But this is not a priority. Today, I just think about tomorrow's game and that's life for all coaches."

"I would like to coach the national team of Portugal and many people expect it there. I hope I know this experience and play a World Cup or Euro."

"In 2008, I was ready to take the English team. But for me, it was Portugal that I want."



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CROATIA 1.HNL																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Dinamo Zagreb	18	13	2	3	39	14	+25	41	W	L	W	L	W			
2 Hajduk Split	19	9	6	4	27	14	+13	33	W	D	D	D	W			
3 Lokomotiva	19	9	5	5	27	21	+6	32	W	L	W	D	W			
4 Rijeka	19	9	5	5	28	23	+5	32	D	D	W	W	L			
5 Slaven Koprivnica	19	9	4	6	28	26	+2	31	D	W	L	W	L			
6 Split	19	9	3	7	28	22	+6	30	L	W	W	L	W			
7 Osijek	18	5	8	5	19	17	+2	23	L	D	L	D	L			
8 Istra 1961	19	5	5	9	17	22	-5	20	L	D	L	L	W			
9 Inter Zaprešić	19	4	7	8	21	25	-4	19	L	L	L	W	D			
10 Zadar	19	4	5	10	20	36	-16	17	W	D	W	L	W			
11 Cibalia	19	4	4	11	16	31	-15	16	L	D	L	W	L			
12 Zagreb	19	4	4	11	12	31	-19	16	D	W	L	L	W			

GERMANY Bundesliga																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Bayern München	18	14	3	1	46	7	+39	45	W	D	W	D	W			
2 Bayer Leverkusen	18	11	3	4	36	23	+13	36	W	W	L	W	W			
3 Borussia Dortmund	18	9	6	3	40	20	+20	33	W	W	L	D	D			
4 Eintracht Fran...	18	9	3	6	34	30	+4	30	L	W	W	L	L			
5 Schalke 04	18	8	4	6	32	29	+3	28	W	L	L	D	L			
6 Freiburg	18	7	6	5	24	18	+6	27	D	W	W	D	L			
7 Mainz 05	18	8	3	7	24	21	+3	27	D	W	L	W	W			
8 Borussia M'gla...	18	6	8	4	25	26	-1	26	D	D	W	D	W			
9 Hamburger SV	18	7	4	7	19	22	-3	25	D	L	W	D	W			
10 Stuttgart	18	7	4	7	21	30	-9	25	L	L	W	W	W			
11 Hannover 96	18	7	2	9	36	36	+0	23	L	D	W	L	W			
12 Werder Bremen	18	6	4	8	28	34	-6	22	L	D	L	W	L			
13 Wolfsburg	18	6	4	8	19	27	-8	22	W	L	W	D	L			
14 Fortuna Düsseldorf	18	5	6	7	22	25	-3	21	L	W	L	W	D			
15 Nürnberg	18	5	6	7	18	23	-5	21	D	D	L	W	L	W		
16 Hoffenheim	18	3	4	11	23	41	-18	13	D	L	L	L	L			
17 Augsburg	18	2	6	10	15	31	-16	12	W	D	L	D	L			
18 Greuther Fürth	18	1	6	11	11	30	-19	9	L	D	L	L	L			

THE CHAMPIONSHIP																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Cardiff City	28	19	3	6	50	30	+20	60	W	D	W	W	W			
2 Leicester City	28	15	5	8	49	23	+26	50	W	W	W	W	D			
3 Hull City	28	15	5	8	39	31	+8	50	D	L	D	W	D			
4 Crystal Palace	28	13	9	6	50	35	+15	48	D	L	W	D	L			
5 Middlesbrough	28	15	2	11	47	39	+8	47	L	L	L	W	W			
6 Watford	27	14	4	9	53	37	+16	46	W	W	L	W	W			
7 Brighton & Hov...	28	10	12	6	40	30	+10	42	D	D	W	L	L			
8 Burnley	28	12	6	10	43	40	+3	42	W	W	W	L	W			
9 Millwall	28	11	8	9	40	38	+2	41	L	D	W	L	L			
10 Nottingham Forest	28	10	11	7	39	37	+2	41	D	W	L	D	W			
11 Leeds United	28	12	5	11	39	44	-5	41	W	L	W	L	L			
12 Charlton Athletic	28	10	9	9	38	38	+0	39	W	W	W	D	L			
13 Derby County	28	10	8	10	42	41	+1	38	D	L	W	D	L			
14 Blackburn Rovers	28	9	10	9	38	37	+1	37	D	L	W	L	W			
15 Blackpool	28	8	10	10	45	42	+3	34	L	L	D	L	D			
16 Bolton Wanderers	28	8	10	10	40	41	-1	34	D	D	L	W	L			
17 Wolverhampton ...	28	9	6	13	33	39	-6	33	D	L	L	L	L			
18 Huddersfield Town	28	8	9	11	32	48	-16	33	L	D	L	D	D			
19 Ipswich Town	28	8	8	12	28	49	-21	32	D	L	D	W	L			
20 Birmingham City	28	7	10	11	36	45	-9	31	D	D	L	L	W			
21 Sheffield Wedn...	28	8	5	15	31	43	-12	29	D	W	L	D	W			
22 Peterborough U...	28	8	2	18	39	52	-13	26	D	L	W	L	W			
23 Barnsley	28	6	7	15	29	44	-15	25	D	W	L	L	L			
24 Bristol City	27	6	4	17	38	55	-17	22	L	L	L	W	D			

Greece Super League																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	18	15	3	0	41	10	+31	48	W	W	W	W	D			
2 PAOK	18	10	5	3	25	11	+14	35	L	D	W	W	W			
3 Asteras Tripolis	18	10	4	4	24	11	+13	34	W	W	W	L	D			
4 Atromitos	18	8	8	2	18	12	+6	32	W	D	W	D	W			
5 Levadiakos	18	8	3	7	15	15	+0	27	W	L	W	W	L			
6 OFI	18	6	5	7	20	22	-2	23	W	W	L	W	L			
7 PAS Giannina	18	6	5	7	16	17	-1	23	L	D	D	L	W			
8 Panathinaikos	18	5	9	4	18	18	+0	22	D	D	L	D	L			
9 Panthrakikos	18	6	4	8	19	22	-3	22	D	D	L	W	W			
10 Panionios	18	7	1	10	20	25	-5	22	L	D	L	L	L			
11 Xanthi	18	4	7	7	14	17	-3	19	D	L	W	D	W			
12 Platanias	18	4	6	8	15	21	-6	18	L	D	D	L	L			
13 Aris	18	3	8	7	15	26	-11	17	D	L	W	D	D			
14 AEK Athens	18	4	4	10	14	21	-7	16	D	W	L	D	L			
15 Veria	18	3	7	8	12	23	-11	16	L	D	L	W	D			
16 Kerkyra	18	2	7	9	7	22	-15	13	D	L	L	L	L			

TURKEY

Süper Lig



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Galatasaray	18	9	6	3	35	22	+13	33	LWWDW
2 Beşiktaş	18	8	7	3	40	27	+13	31	DWDDW
3 Antalyaspor	18	9	3	6	31	27	+4	30	LLWDW
4 Fenerbahçe	18	7	7	4	27	21	+6	28	DLLWD
5 Bursaspor	18	6	9	3	28	21	+7	27	WDDWD
6 Karabükspor	18	8	3	7	26	27	-1	27	WWWLW
7 Kasımpaşa	18	7	5	6	26	21	+5	26	WLDDD
8 Eskişehirspor	18	6	7	5	33	24	+9	25	DLLLL
9 Gençlerbirliği	18	5	9	4	30	29	+1	24	WDDDL
10 Trabzonspor	18	6	6	6	20	18	+2	24	LDLDW
11 Sivasspor	18	6	5	7	21	24	-3	23	DWLLL
12 İstanbul BB	18	6	4	8	21	22	-1	22	DWWLW
13 Orduspor	18	4	9	5	20	20	+0	21	DDLLL
14 Gaziantepspor	18	5	6	7	16	24	-8	21	DWDL
15 Kayserispor	18	5	4	9	23	31	-8	19	LLWDD
16 Elazığspor	18	3	8	7	13	29	-16	17	DLDDW
17 Mersin İdmanyurdu	18	3	7	8	19	28	-9	16	DLWLL
18 Akhisar Beledi...	18	3	7	8	13	27	-14	16	DWDL



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